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HISTORY

OF

ANCIENT WESTBURY

AND

PRESENT WATERTOWN, Connecticut

FROM ITS SETTLEMENT

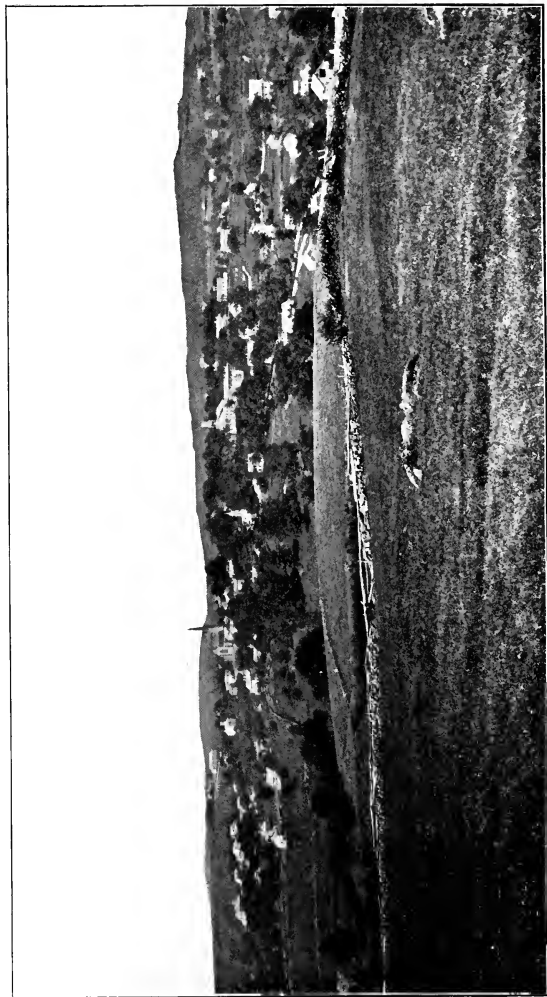
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BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF WATERTOWN.

### Dedication.

WE beg our kind readers to remember the difficulties to be encountered in writing a correct and authentic history of this kind. We have done our best, and therefore feel that no unduly harsh criticism will be extended to those who have had this work much in their minds for months. We now commend it to you, with every hope that this book will receive a cordial reception in many homes and be read with interest now and in future generations. In the quaint language of Anthony A. Wood in his preface to *The History of Oxford*:

"A painful work it is, I'll assure you, and *more* than difficult, wherein what toyle hath been taken, as no man thinketh, so no man believeth except he hath made the trial."

However, it is a work that has had its pleasures. It has opened up a richer and more detailed knowledge of this dear old town, the home of many of our ancestors, our home and the resting place of our kindred.

To the blessed memory of those who, in the past, labored among these hills and valleys, with strong hearts and willing hands, to make homes for those dear to them, afterward by precept and example to build strong character, and to those in the present who are in any way trying to make this beautiful town a lasting tribute to their labors, this book is dedicated by

THE SARAH WHITMAN TRUMBULL CHAPTER, D. A. R.



## **Pioneer Days.**

**I**N order to give Watertown its proper location and show how it became a living factor in this commonwealth it is necessary to enter into a little of the early history of Connecticut. The Dutch of New Netherland had reached the Connecticut river January 1631, purchased land of the Indians and built at Hartford a house which they called "The House of Good Hope." Then arose the great question among our Puritan ancestors, "Shall these intruding Hollanders be allowed to take possession of the finest valley in New England?" To ask that question was but to answer it, and the first English settlement in Connecticut was made by William Holmes, and a number of Plymouth men in October 1633, at the mouth of the Farmington river at Windsor. With due respect for the rights of the Indians, Holmes and his companions purchased a tract of land, built a house thereon, fortified it and ever after maintained their right thereto. This house was framed at Plymouth and brought hither by water. It is said to have been the first house erected in Connecticut. Here we feel constrained to remark that if the policy of rendering to every man his due had controlled the actions of the discoverers and settlers of our country, the bitter animosities and bloodier outrages of subsequent generations would have been largely prevented. The first court, consisting of six men, was held in Hartford, April 26, 1636. This court looked after the common affairs of the Colony, declared war, concluded peace, and formed alliances with the Indians. These local courts continued their supervision of the civil affairs of the towns until January 14, 1639, when delegates

from Wethersfield, Saybrook and Windsor met in Hartford, and framed a constitution which is recorded as "one of the most simple and liberal ever adopted." Later in the same year, an adjourned assembly incorporated the several towns, and vested them with power to transact local business, which action was the origin and establishment of town privilege.

In no part of New England were the Indians so numerous as in Connecticut. This is accounted for by the greater abundance of fish and game which her rivers and forests afforded. In 1613 the number had been greatly decimated by a widespread disease resembling yellow fever. The part of the State west of the river belonged to and was occupied by the Mohegans, the Paugasuck (Paugassetts) and the Tunxis. The name of the latter, meaning "brimming river," was derived from a small western branch of the Connecticut about ten miles west of Hartford. The Paugasucks were the original holders of the tract extending for miles both sides of the Naugatuck river. They called the place Mattatuck, ("badly-wooded"), which name is preserved in several fraternal orders and industrial companies in the present city of Waterbury. There are six deeds relating to the transfer of this territory from the aboriginal holders to the white men. Recorded in Farmington Land Records is a quaint Indian deed, dated February 8, 1657, conveying to William Lewis and Samuel Steele of that town "a psell or tract of Land called Matetacoke, that is to Say the hill from whence John Standly and John Andrews brought the black lead, supposed to be in the locality of Harwinton, and all the land within eight mylle of that on every side; to dig and carry away what they will and to build on yt for ye Use of them that Labor there and not otherwise to improve ye Land. In witness whereof wee have hereunto set our hands: and those Indyans above mentioned must free the purchasers from all Claymes by any other Indyans."

Witness: John Steele.



The grantors of the above deed were Kepaquam, Queromus and Mataneg. Steele's Brook probably derived its name from John or Samuel Steele. Woster, or Wooster, the maiden name of Watertown, doubtless derived its name from Edward Wooster of Derby, who cultivated or gathered wild hops from the tract of land known as "Wooster Swamp," extending along Steele's Brook to Welton Station at Oakville.

The mining scheme was soon abandoned by the Farmington men, but they did not forget that there were desirable farming lands in this wilderness, and on October 9, 1673, twenty-six men, all of that town, sent the following petition to the court then in session in Hartford:

*To the honerd generall court now siting In Hartford October 9, 1673:*

HONERD GENTLEMEN AND FATHERS: We being sensible of our great neede of a comfortable subsistance doe herby make our address to your selves, In order to the same, not Questioning your ceare and faithfulness In Ye premises; Also hoping of your freeness and readyness to accomidate your poore supplicants with yt which we Judge to be; In your hands; acord- ing to an orderly proseedng we therefore whose names are hereafter Inserted to humbly petition your honors to take cognicance; of our state who want Land to labour upon; for our subsistance & Now having found out a trackt at a place called by Ye Indians Matitacook; which we aprihend may susfetiently acomidate to make a small plantation; we are therefore bould hereby to petition your honors to grant vs Ye liberty of planting ye same with as many others as may be: capable comfortably to entertaine and as for Ye purchasing of Ye Natives with your alowance we shall take care of; & so not to trouble you with farther Inlargement we rest only de- siring your due consideration & a return.

By our louing ffriend John Lankton and subscribe ourselves your nedy petitioners.

Thomas Newell  
John Lankton  
John Andrews  
Wm. Higgeson  
John Porter  
Thos. Barnes  
John Woodruff

Samuell heacox  
John Welton  
Daniel warner  
Abraham warner  
Thomas hancox  
John Carrington  
Daniel Andrews

John warner, senior  
Daniel Porter  
Edmun Scott  
John Standly, Junior  
abraham brounson

Joseph heacox  
thomas Standly  
Obadiah richards  
Timothy Standly

The return from the Committee read as follows:

April 6. 7. 8. 9. 1674.

Wee, whose names are underwritten (according to the desire and appointment of Ye honoured Court) have viewed Ye lands upon Mattatuck River in order to a plantation, we doe apprehend that there is about six hundred acres of meadow and plowing land lying on both sides of Ye river besides upland convenient for a towne plot, with a suitable out let into Ye woods on Ye west of Ye river, and a good feeding land for cattell. The meadow and plowing land above written a considerable part of it lyeth in two peices near ye towne plot, Ye rest in smaller parcels, Ye farthest of which we judge not above fower miles from Ye towne plot, and our apprehensions are that it May accommodate thirty families.

THOMAS BULL,  
NICO OLMSTEAD,  
ROBERT WEBSTER.

Articles of association and agreement were drawn up and each settler was required to sign them before he could take possession of the new lands. Certain individual rights were sacrificed for the good of the whole community; a division of the land and a fair distribution of the tax burden were provided for; each land-holder had eight acres for a house-lot and a share in the meadow lands according to his property interests. A committee was appointed to dispose of two or three allotments according to its judgment. The taxes were assessed for the first five years on the meadow allotments; after five years according to the laws and customs of the country, each person was required to build in the place assigned him a good substantial house, "not less than eighteen feet long by sixteen feet high and nine feet between joints, with a good chimney;" each house was to be finished within four years from the date of agreement, June 6, 1674, or the owner forfeited his right to the land. By the

provision that the owner should occupy his house for four years after completion, and until that time could not sell his land, squatters were barred from the settlement. Before the work of settlement was completed all New England was called to arms by the Indian War. Word was sent to all outlying and unprotected settlers to move to places of safety and the holders of Mattatuck returned to Farmington. For nearly three years, King Philip and his followers "held up" the settlement, and when the settlers again returned to their abandoned lands, a new site was chosen for a town, in order that communication with other colonists in case of assault might be more convenient. April 29, 1684, nine Indians, Patuckquo, Automtockquo, Wawowas, Taphow, Judas, Mantow, Quatowquechuck, and two squaws, Mercy, and the squaw of Momantow,—in consideration of nine pounds already received on good security for that purpose, granted to Thomas Judd and John Stanley in the name and behalf of the proprietors of the Township of Mattatuck, a tract of land lying north of that formerly sold to Major Talcott and Mr. Wadsworth of Hartford. It was on its north side and extended eight miles north from Mount Taylor. On an east and west line its extent was eight miles. The grant butted east on Farmington bounds, south on former grant, the "Spinning Squaws" land, west on "Quasepaug Pond" and north on Nonnewaug and Guernsey town, then called "The Wilderness." It included the town of Plymouth and the dimensions, as nearly as can be reckoned, were about eight miles either way from side to side, while the limits of ancient Waterbury are described in several deeds as extending for a distance of eighteen miles on both sides of the Naugatuck river. If this tract had been equally divided among the thirty-six original proprietors, each one would have received about twenty-four hundred acres. The original limits now comprehend the towns of Waterbury, Watertown, Plymouth, Thomaston, half of Wolcott, one third of Prospect, the larger part

of Middlebury, a corner of Oxford and nearly the whole of Naugatuck. The first house in Wooster was built by Obadiah Richards, previous to December 23, 1700, for in *Dr. Anderson's History of Waterbury*, we read that "on that day he was granted one acre 'where his house stands at his mountain,' and on the same day his son Obadiah was received as an inhabitant." It is reasonable to suppose that Obadiah Richards, Jr., who was the first known inhabitant of Watertown, was living there in 1701. "Richards' Mountain" or "Obadiah's Hill" is the eminence southwest of the Centre. The Woodbury and Middlebury roads pass over it. In 1701, Richards gave to his sons John and Obadiah, each one half of his lands on the mountain (over sixteen acres), and to Obadiah his share of the house and barn. John, apparently, having assisted in the building of this house and barn, was owner of the other half. This house is mentioned in 1704 and again in 1709, but in 1715 some disaster had befallen both house and barn for we find in a land grant the words "where house and barn stood." They were probably burned in the Indian Raid of 1710. The second house in present Watertown was built in 1715 by Thomas Welton. It stood in Oakville on north side of Steele's Brook and southwest of Turkey Brook. This was at the fork of the Wooster and Scott's Mountain roads. In the house known for generations as the "Esquire John Buckingham place" Ebenezer Richardson lived from 1721 to 1735. During the summer of 1729 or 1730 Joseph Garnsey came from Milford with his slaves and cut logs to build his cabin in the locality now known as Guernseytown. The old records tell us that "the land in this locality was regarded as so much more valuable than other undivided land that one acre was equal to five acres and later to two and one half acres in other parts of the town." Part of the eastern section of woodland is now in possession of the descendants of the pioneer Guernsey. Dense forests covered the entire twelve hundred acres, extending over Woodbury,

Bethlehem, Linkfield and the Town Woods. Only on the swamp now occupied by Judd's Pond could animals graze; they browsed upon the trees. From Captain Joseph Garnsey and his wife, Rachel Marchant, there descended many families of the same name. Captain Joseph Garnsey was captain of the Continental forces during the Revolutionary War and on his return brought with him a fine black English stallion which he had captured from a British officer. At one time there were twenty-seven families of Garnseys in this vicinity. Tradition tells us that the first house ever painted in our town was one of the Garnsey houses, and that it was painted with a horse's tail. It is related that one night robbers came to Guernseytown. They first visited a man by name of Garnsey who lived on the place now owned by William Foote. He was so badly beaten that later it was necessary for him to be trepanned. His wife, throwing off her gold beads, crawled under the trundle-beds containing her sleeping children. Peering into the trundle-beds and seeing only the little ones, the robbers passed them by and Mrs. Garnsey escaped detection. On leaving the house the thieves dropped the wallet containing the stolen money. They then went to the house of Joseph Garnsey. He and his wife were alone, and she with quick wit, suspecting the newcomers to be robbers, ran to the foot of the staircase, and as if there were many men sleeping above, called name after name, bidding them come down as thieves were at the door. Then going upstairs she rolled log after log from the fireplace down the stairs. The robbers, frightened by the seeming approach of so many men, rode hastily away without dismounting. It is impossible to realize the dangers and hardships of those early days. Men builded upon the hills the better to protect themselves from Indians and wild beasts. No man ventured to the fields without his gun, and children were posted upon the fences to warn the workers of the approach of an enemy. Rebecca Prindle, the first child baptised

in the township, was born February 7, 1739, and died aged ninety-nine years and one month, and retained most of her faculties to the last. Her father owned a large tract of land on Scott's Mountain, now Nova Scotia Hill. Her descendants tell us that when a child she was often sent by her father to the fields to frighten away the bears. She married Noah Judd, son of Timothy Judd, who lived on the site of the house now owned by Mrs. William Curtiss. Mr. and Mrs. Noah Judd lived where now the summer home of Mrs. Henry Merriman stands. The first house built on Scott's Mountain was that of Deacon Thomas Hickox, erected in 1728. The earliest burial in Watertown was that of Hannah Richards, wife of Edward Scoville. Dr. Anderson graphically describes the sad scene: "In the early Springtime of 1741, the long procession, without hearse, without carriage, winding its way down from Scott's Mountain, and across the swamp, the low bier covered with 'funeral cloth' or pall, reverently borne by neighbors and friends to its resting place. It is safe to write that around that grave clustered the entire community. . . . As the bundle of straw, according to custom, was dropped into the grave, and the skeleton shadow of the meeting-house frame fell over it, four young children clustered near. One of the number, a boy of nine years named James, was destined to fill a high and important position, for in him lay dormant the Rev. James Scoville, missionary of the Church of England to his native town and the Society of Westbury."

On the place, now owned by Alfred Adt, lived Samuel Thomas who died in his country's service at Cape Britton. Obadiah Scott lived on the road from Wooster to Bucks' Hill. This house he sold to Rev. John Trumbull, who afterward built a house on the east side of the highway, which became the birthplace of the noted author of "McFingal." The original business centre of Watertown was near the historic place now owned by Charles Woodruff. Here stood a schoolhouse, a

blacksmith shop, a tavern and several dwelling houses. John Woodruff, the great, great-grandfather of the



TRUMBULL HOUSE.

present owner, came to this place from Milford previous to the Revolutionary War. When the call came for volunteers, he formed a company of which he was Captain, two of his sons were volunteers and the third son, being too young to enlist, accompanied his father as Captain's Aide. When the army disbanded seven



BELDEN HOUSE.

years later, he willed his sword to his son John, with the provision that it should descend to the son John in each succeeding family. It is now in Rockford, Illinois, having descended four generations to its present owner.

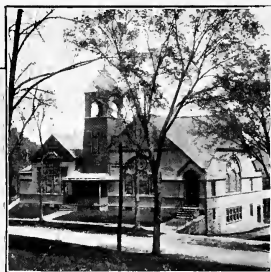
The oldest house standing in Watertown to-day is the "Belden House," situated north of the home of Alfred Adt on Straits' Turnpike, on the east side of the road. Eighty years ago it was occupied by two maiden ladies, the first milliners in Watertown, who bleached and trimmed all the leghorn bonnets in the section.







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1—ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.  
3—CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

2—METHODIST CHURCH.  
4—EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

## History of the Churches.

### CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

**I**N the southwest corner of the old cemetery stood the first Church of the township, a Congregational Church. The First Ecclesiastical Society was organized soon after the incorporation of the Society of Westbury in 1738. Among its founders were Deacon J. Garnsey, Daniel Scott, Lieutenant Thomas Richards, Nathaniel Arnold, William Scoville, George Welton, Thomas Matthews, Deacon Thomas Hickox, Deacon Timothy Judd, Deacon John Warner, Ebenezer Porter, Amos Hickox, Jeremiah Peck, Joseph Garnsey, Thomas Cole, Ambrose Hickox, Stephen Scott, Thomas Buckingham, Thomas Hammond, John Stoddard, Richard Seymour, Timothy Williams, Elnathan Judd, Thomas Fenn, Samuel Reynolds, and Michael Dayton. The first services were held on the site of the present residence of George Lewis. Plans were made to build a "meeting-house" in the corner of the old burial-ground, and on February 24, 1740, the Society directed their committee, John Judd and John Scoville, to lay out the land as follows: "Beginning at southwest corner, a heap of stones, then east ten rods to a heap of stones, then ten rods north to a heap of stones, then west eleven rods to a heap of stones, then south eighteen rods to a heap of stones where we began, butting west on land left for a highway, north on Eleazer Scott's land, south on Stephen Scott's land, east on Eleazer Scott's land, or common land as set out by us." "The land included in these lands amounted to nearly one acre, belonging to Eleazer Scott, and as a remuneration for the same the committee

awarded him 'three acres of land, to lay out in the undivided land or fifty shillings in money.' " The building was completed in 1741. There were about three hundred inhabitants in Westbury in 1739, when the Rev. John Trumbull was invited to take charge of the parish. The house already referred to as the birth-place of the author of "McFingal" became the parsonage and the adjacent land was known as the glebe. Mr. Trumbull was a good classical scholar, a graduate of Yale College in 1735, and he was for many years one of the Trustees or Fellows of that institution. Dr. Bronson tells us that he sometimes fitted young men for college after he became minister at Westbury; "that his attainments as a scholar were respectable; that he was sound, shrewd and humorous, but that he appears not to have been distinguished as a preacher; that the great influence he acquired over his people was obtained by his generosity, his hospitable manner and his friendly intercourse. He is described as a stout athletic man, fond of horses and a lover of innocent sports, willing to help the parish boys in games of contest against the 'Town Spotters.' The young men met at some half-way place, and carried on their game of wrestling, 'at the square hold,' on autumnal evenings around the fire. The story is told that on one occasion when the last of the Westbury champions had been laid low, a stranger, Mr. Trumbull in disguise, in company with Captain Abel Woodward, wrestled with the victor and threw him into the fire. When next Mr. Trumbull met Mr. Leavenworth, his colleague of the First Church of Waterbury, the latter reproved him for throwing his contestant into the fire. Mr. Trumbull agreed that he had been guilty of levity, but said that he felt it his duty to give Mr. Leavenworth's parishioners a foretaste of what they might expect after sitting under his preaching. While a student in Yale College John Trumbull stole a sign from one of the shops. He fled with it to his room, hotly pursued. It was a rule in the College that no

student should be disturbed while at his devotions. He threw the sign on the fire, and kneeling down prayed, 'A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given.' His prayer did not end until the sign was entirely consumed by the flames."

Tradition says that the parson's grave old dog, who was usually as regular an attendant upon the services as any member of the family, scandalized the good people of the congregation one Sunday, by marching in after the sermon had begun, with the minister's second best wig tied on his head, and took his seat on the pulpit stairs. The parson looked at him, struggled to maintain his gravity and remarked, "That is some of John's work," John being the parson's second son, afterward the noted author. In the year 1772, during Mr. Trumbull's pastorate, the second Congregational Church was built on land purchased of Wait Scott near the present Post Office. Such heavy timbers were used in its construction that assistance was given from five neighboring towns for the raising. Some of the timbers are to-day in the Congregational Parsonage.

The second Congregational Church had a steeple one hundred feet high. The bell was rung every night at nine o'clock by Benajah Bryan, who lived in a house which stood on the site of the present residence of Charles B. Mattoon. The unruly boys used to get into the meetinghouse, ring the bell in the night, and be gone before Mr. Bryan could get there. At length the doors and windows were so fastened that the boys could not get in, but a boy named Uri Judd, the son of Benjamin H. Judd, the cabinet maker, climbed the lightning rod, fifty feet to the belfry, came down, opened the door, let in the boys and left before Mr. Bryan appeared.

It is worthy of record that during the first fifty years of American Missionary History, Dr. Henry DeForest, a member of the Congregational Church of Watertown, went to Syria as a missionary.

After the second Church was built, Mr. Trumbull built the house known for years as the "Woodward House," in order to be nearer the scene of his labors. Mr. Trumbull died in 1787. In the ancient burial ground on a quaint old tablet we read:

"Sacred to the memory of Rev. John Trumbull, A. M., senior pastor of the Church of Christ in Westbury, and one of the Fellows of the Corporation of Yale College, who died December 13, 1787, in the seventy-third year of his age and forty-eighth of his ministry.

"Of distinguished learning, industry and abilities, the most unaffected piety of heart, the firmest attachment to the doctrines of the Gospel, the most unblemished moral character, a studious attention and friendship to the people of his charge, the most cheerful hospitality to his friends and ardent charity to the poor, which rendered him respectable in life, and in firm reliance on the merits of the Redeemer raised his mind above the fear of death, can render the memory of the deceased dear to the survivors, and afford a worthy example to posterity. Go, reader, and imitate his virtues! Behold the upright man! His end is peace."

During the last three or four years of Mr. Trumbull's pastorate, Uriel Gridley was settled colleague with him and succeeded him as pastor of the church. He came to Westbury in 1785 and remained for thirty-five years. A writer says of Mr. Gridley, "I shall never forget and language would fail me to describe his majestic dignity and easy grace as he walked, bowing reverently, up the broad aisle, ascended the steps and turned his placid, benign face to the audience."

During his ministry two hundred and thirty persons were added to the church. Of him also some amusing stories are told. He was very fond of hunting and one spring day he borrowed a valuable gun from a neighbor to shoot robins. Time passed and the gun was not returned. The owner inquiring for it found it in the garden in a hill of beans, the growing vines twisted

to the top of the stock. This same parson was given the first early peas from a neighbor's garden if he would pick them. He did so, first carrying the vines under a shady tree, for the day was very warm. At a donation party, "Parson Gridley," as he was called, was presented with six cheeses; he cut them all to see which he liked best. There were two services each Sabbath Day in the churches, one in the morning, and after an intermission of one hour in winter and one and one-half hours in summer, another in the afternoon. At each service a sermon not less than one hour long was preached. No fires were permitted in the Churches and for the comfort and convenience of the parishioners, "Sabba Day" houses were built. One stood near the present site of David Woodward's house and another near Town Hall. In these houses were large fireplaces, filled with roaring wood fires, from which the foot-stoves, which every lady carried, were replenished. Here the good people during the intermission between the services, enjoyed their seed cakes and cookies and the little bottle of cider of which their luncheon usually consisted. During the early history of the Church it was the custom to register not only the date but the cause of death. One curious entry relating to the death of a lady reads as follows: "She lived with her husband ten weeks. He has buried two wives in ten months, a Providence which never took place in Watertown before, and probably there are but few instances in the Christian world. The ways of the Lord are past finding out." The seating of the parishioners in the churches was arranged by age, "care being taken," by a committee appointed for that purpose, when reseating was necessary, "not to degrade any one." The "people of colour" occupied a seat in the rear of the Church under the gallery. The seats were paid for by a tax laid upon each member, and not until the third Congregational Church was built were seats sold to the highest bidders.

Rev. Uriel Gridley died December 16, 1820, in the

58th year of his age and 36th of his ministry. On his tombstone in the Old Cemetery is this inscription:

"Here rests in hope all that on earth remains  
Of one whom late we knew and much we loved  
As husband, parent, friend and guide to follow;  
Here lies all severed by the hand of death,  
Yet mourn we not as those who have no hope.  
Our loss his gain, our grief we trust his joy.  
For him to live was Christ and in his steps  
He humbly trod a follower of the Lamb;  
Meek, patient, merciful and love of heart,  
His Saviour's kindness seemed his rule of life  
His Saviour's merits all his hope of heaven,  
Lo, reader ask thy bosom for such hope of final rest."

The brethren of Federal Lodge erected a stone to the memory of Mrs. Susannah Gridley "as a mark of their esteem for the Rev. Mr. Gridley and his late worthy lady."

"In memory of Mrs. Susannah Gridley, the amiable consort of the Rev. Uriel Gridley, who departed this life on May 8th, 1796, in the 33rd year of her age.

"While yet alive she strikingly exemplified the endearing virtues of an agreeable and lovely companion to her husband, the tender-hearted esteem of an affectionate mother to her children, the serious and social friend to her acquaintance, and an ornament of piety to the world.

"Now sacred shades receive this long farewell  
Sleep, sleep in peace, then rise with God to dwell."

Rev. Mr. Gridley was succeeded in 1822 by Horace Hooker.

Deeply loved and regretted by his people, Mr. Hooker resigned the pastorate in 1824, on account of ill-health. Mr. Darius Griswold took charge of the parish in 1825. He remained until 1834. In 1835 Mr William DeForest was installed pastor. In the same year land was purchased of Mrs. Dutton on which to build a parsonage. In 1837 Mr. DeForest resigned his pastorate on account of



ill health. In 1834 plans were drawn for a new Church. There was much controversy over the location of the new edifice, whether it should stand on the Dutton lot, so called, or the Woodward lot. The matter was settled by arbitration, and the present Church was raised on the Woodward lot in 1839, and dedicated January 29, 1840. Rev. Philo Hurd took charge of the Parish on July 1, 1840, and remained nine years. Rev. Chauncey Goodrich was installed Pastor of the Parish in 1849, and remained one year. For twelve succeeding years the following clergymen were employed by the Society as stated preachers:

Rev. Geo. P. Prudden, 1857-1861.

Rev. Samuel M. Freeland, 1862-1864.

Rev. Benjamin Parsons, 1866-1867.

In 1872, Rev. George A. Gilliman took charge of the Parish. He was succeeded by

Rev. Franklin Tuxbury, 1877-1879.

Rev. Charles P. Croft, 1880-

Rev. Benjamin D. Conkling, 1881-1884.

Rev. George N. Pelton, 1886-1889.

Rev. Robert Pegrum, 1889-1900.

Rev. William T. Holmes, the present pastor was installed February 1, 1901. The deacons are: Henry T. Dayton, Charles W. Bidwell, George M. Griswold, Lucien R. Hitchcock.

The Standing Committee, with the Deacons, are: Mrs. James L. Loveland, Mrs. Nathaniel B. Miller, Miss Estella Beach, Frederick J. Werking.

Superintendents of Sunday School: Main Department, Fredk. J. Werking; Intermediate Department, Miss Estella Beach; Primary Department, Mrs. Fredk. J. Werking.

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## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

About the year 1740, that part of Connecticut now called Plymouth was incorporated into a Parish of Waterbury. It was called Northbury and consisted of eighteen families. They united in building a proprietary house, designed for all public uses, which they called a schoolhouse. The first clergyman, Rev. Mr. Todd, was ordained there. The manner of preaching,

prevalent among the followers of the celebrated Whitfield, was distasteful to many people, and desiring a calmer mode of worship, eleven of the eighteen families conformed to the worship of the Church of England. Being a majority they obtained possession of the school-house, but they assisted their brethren to erect another public house, "until their claims were satisfied." In the year 1740 a Missionary named Morris was sent from England by the "Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in foreign parts" to take charge of the parishes of Derby, Waterbury and West Haven. Mr. Morris remained about three years, during which time the mission of Northbury was organized. He procured for the use of his parishes a large folio Bible and Prayer Book. His successor was the Rev. James Lyon, also a European. Mr. Lyon remained in the Parish two or three years. After his departure, the Parish was vacant for a time. In 1749 Dr. Mansfield returned from Europe, invested in Holy orders, and as a missionary took charge of the Parishes of Derby, Westbury and Northbury. Dr. Mansfield's piety made him much beloved and respected. The alacrity with which he would take a journey of twenty or thirty miles over extremely bad roads in severe weather, visiting the sick, baptizing children, or committing to the earth the remains of his parishioners, continued for more than half a century. In 1759 he confined his services to Derby and Oxford, where he remained until his death in the ninety-seventh year of his age. The Rev. James Scoville, a native of Waterbury, now came to the mission. He officiated half of the time in Waterbury and half in Northbury and New Cambridge. It is presumed that all members of the Church of England in Westbury journeyed every Sunday from the far-away hills of river and stream to St. James Church, Waterbury, and on those Sundays when Mr. Scoville was absent from Waterbury, they met "in the house of James Doolittle during the winter and spring, and in the chamber of Ensign David

Scott in summer." In 1765 the number of churchmen having greatly increased, the active members of the Parish, twenty-one in number, Asahel Beach, Samuel Brown, Joseph Brown, Daniel Brown, Joseph Pritchard, Edward Scoville, Thomas Doolittle, James Doolittle, Jonathan Tulford, Jonathan Garnsey, Eleazer Prindle, Samuel Scoville, John Judd, Noah Judd, Asa Judd, John Hickox, Gershom Scott, and William Scoville, resolved to organize a branch of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Westbury. They accordingly addressed the First Warning,

"To Mr. William Scoville of Westbury in Litchfield County. Greeting:—These are to Desire you to warn and Notify, all the male Inhabitants in said Westbury, possessing the Episcopal form of Worship and Discipline, to Meet at the Sabbath day house Near the Church in S'd Westbury, on Monday, the sixth Day of December next, at 8 of the clock before noon, there to transact and Do all such things of an Episcopal Nature as by law such inhabitants are empowered to Do. Hereof fail not. Dated at Westbury this 27th Day of November 1764.

Signed by THOMAS MATTHEWS, *Treasurer.*

SAMUEL BROWN,

JAMES WELTON,

NOAH JUDD,

*Principal Inhabitants  
of Episcopal Persuasion.*

WESTBURY, 6th December, 1764.

The Society of Episcopalians in Westbury, being legally warned to form into a legal Society and met accordingly at the place appointed viz. the Church Sabbath Day House at 8 o'clock in the morning, & made choice of Lieut. Saml. Brown, Moderator, & Wait Smith, Society Clerk & Noah Judd, Treasurer & Mefrs. Noah Judd, William Scoville & Wait Smith, Society Committee, David Prindle, Collector of Minister's rates, and Noah Judd, Grand Jurey, Darius Scoville & David Manvill Tytheing men. Voted that the annual meeting is to be on the first Monday in December. The warning to be in writing by the Committee & sett on the Sabbath House Door and dismissed the meeting.

WAIT SMITH, *Society Clerk.*

After meeting with "embarrisments" with respect to a convenient place on which to erect a Church,

Captain George Nichols of Waterbury, gave a spot for that purpose, and in May, 1765, a Church 45 feet by 36 feet with a steeple (?) was erected on land southeast of the old cemetery, now owned by Curtis Atwood. "Such was the harmony, zeal and perseverance, with Captain Edward Scoville as their principal, to whom they looked for pecuniary aid and direction, that in October they had got their Church in such forwardings, as to be in some measure convenient for the celebration of public worship. Accordingly, in the latter part of the month they assembled in it to give Glory to Him who had put it into their hearts to build it," and gave it the name of Christ Church. The dedicatory sermon was delivered by the Rev. Samuel Andrews, missionary from the Society to Wallingford, Cheshire and North Haven.

Having a house set apart for the sole purpose of Public Worship, they petitioned Waterbury Society for the services of Mr. Scoville in future in proportion to their grand levy in consequence of which he performed public services with them once in six Sundays.

"In this situation things continued, the parish increased in numbers and respectability, with the blessing of Heaven upon the labours of their worthy rector, whose punctuality in the performance of his labours, notwithstanding the extensive ride he had to perform, was a remarkable trait in his character. His grave and becoming deportment made him respected by all who knew him. The soundness of his doctrine delivered from the pulpit should not be recon'd among his chief excellencies, for he taught the people from House to House, he comforted the aged, Instructed the young, and made himself agreeable to Children. Having such a clergyman it is not Surprising that parishes should increase, which they did to such a degree that in the year 1771 it was unanimously agreed among them that another Clergyman was wanting. Accordingly, the Parishes of Northbury and New Cambridge agreed for a certain pecuniary sum to relin-

quish the services of Mr. Scoville, upon which he confined himself to Waterbury and Westbury.

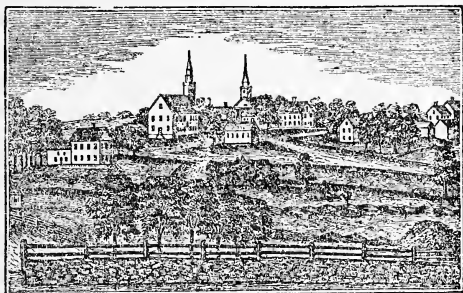
Westbury now enjoyed the benefit of a clergyman one-third of the time and continued to prosper. In 1773 they did off the tower part of the House, together with the Pulpit, Chancel, Canopy, etc.

Soon after this time commenced the war between the mother country and the colonies, in which the Church in Westbury suffered a considerable diminution of numbers and strength. The windows in the Church were many of them demolished, several of the principal men were confined to their farms, and denied the privilege of attending public worship. . . . The American War being brought to a close in 1783, and the colonies declared independent of the British Empire, it became inconsistent with the Society's Charter any longer to continue their salaries to their missionaries in this country. Of this Mr. Scoville received notice and at the same time an offer of a handsome augmentation to his income provided he would remove to the Province of New Brunswick, where the government likewise held out very generous encouragement to clergymen in salaries, bounties and lands to themselves and their families. After long and serious deliberation, he decided to accept the Society's offer, which left the Church in Westbury vacant.

April 17, 1787, at a legal meeting, it was voted to meet a committee from Northbury (now Plymouth) in regard to securing a clergyman to officiate in the Parish every other Sunday, and in February, 1788, it was voted "to try to settle Rev. Chauncey Prindle in the Gospel Ministry in this place one half of the time, and to pay him an annual salary of thirty pounds, to be paid in cattle or produce, viz.: Beef, Pork, Wool, Flax, Butter, Hogs, or any kind of grain, to be paid by 1st Jan. annually, for three years, provided he will move into the middle of this Parish, and Messrs. Noah Judd, Wait Smith and William Scoville were a committee to compleat a settlement with Mr. Chauncey

Prindle." Mr. Prindle was at this time in Deacon's Orders, but it was voted to apply to Bishop Seabury that he should be ordained Priest as soon as possible, and on the twenty-fourth of February, he was ordained Priest by the Right Rev. Bishop Seabury in St. James Church, New London, and he immediately entered upon the duties of his office and resided in Westbury. "The Parish continued to increase in numbers, strength and apparent holiness, and it was voted to move the Church House 'up onto the hill,' somewhere near where the meetinghouse in said Westbury now stands, provided a suitable place can be procured and to give the Rev. Chauncey Prindle the use of the Church land for eight years. On the first day of November, 1792, a committee consisting of William Scoville, Eli Curtiss, Uri Doolittle, Wait Smith, John Castle and Noah Judd were appointed "to procure an estimate of the cost which will be necessary in order to build a new church without a steeple and to cover the outside of it, and also to see what can be obtained by subscription." On November Twelfth the committee reported the cost £232, 17s, 6d, for frame and covering, and they had obtained £155, 5s by subscription. April 16, 1793, Messrs. Noah Judd and Barnabas Scott were made a committee to purchase the plot of ground belonging to Samuel Southmayd, south of Timothy Judd's, a little southwest of the meetinghouse "where the timber for said house now lyeth," for the sum of seventy pounds. This plot was the piece of land lying north of the present residence of Mrs. John Buckingham. After many conferences it was voted to build a Church 54 by 43 feet, to finish the interior and also to build a steeple "as it could be much more conveniently done when said Church is raised" and another subscription was taken and the old Church House sold 'and money appropriated toward the new Church.' The committee contracted with Noah Judd to build the Church for the full sum of £500. This subscription to be paid in "Beef, Pork, Tallow, Lard, Wheat, Rye, Indian

Corn, Neat Cattle not more than eight years old, and Bulls and Stags are *not* to be received in this subscription." On November 18, 1794, the new Church was consecrated by Right Rev. Bishop Seabury by the name of Christ Church.



ANCIENT WATERTOWN.

It was ordered that the Society's committee, "Set up a Suitable and Convenient Post near the Button Wood Tree Near the Northeast Corner of the Church for the Purpose of Setting up warnings for the Society's Meetings for the future, and that a warning for a Society Meeting set up in writing upon sd Post Signed by the Committee of sd Society Shall be a Legal Warning, for all the Members of sd Society to Meet, and that the Place for sd Society to meet at shall be left for the Determination of the Committee of sd Society for the Time Being"

ELI CURTISS, *Clerk.*

AMOS BELDING,

ABEL BRONSON,

WM. SCOVILLE,

ELI CURTISS,

DARIUS SCOVILLE,

*Committee.*

NOAH JUDD,

WAIT SMITH,

*Wardens.*

It is presumed that at this time the Rev. Chauncey Prindle was occupying the house which stood on the site of the residence now owned by Louis Heminway, which was removed about thirty years ago and is now occupied by John Purdy. It was owned by Nathan Sanders and was purchased in 1788 by Mr. Prindle for a rectory. In January, 1802, at a Society's meeting, it was voted "To get the Rev. Mr. Prindle Twenty Cords of Wood for the year ensuing. He finding the wood within one mile of his house." At this time Mr. Prindle was receiving "£45 for his services in the Gospel Ministry in this Society for half the time." It appears he felt they were too generous, for January 15, 1802, he writes: "To the Prudential Committee of the Episcopal Society: Be Pleased to return my most Sincere Thanks to the Society for their Liberal Donation granted me in their meeting on the first Monday in December last, And as it Exceeded both my Expectations and Wishes I hereby Relinquish Fifteen Dollars of the same, and wish you to apply them in such a manner as your good Judgment shall suppose to be most Beneficial to the Society. I am, Beloved in Christ, Yours, Chauncey Prindle."

On December 24, 1804, Mr. Prindle requested the members of the Church to unite with him in a Legal manner in petitioning the Bishop of the Diocese "to make a separation and annulment of that Sacerdotal relation between him and them which was entered into on the tenth of February, 1788. The petition was granted December 6, 1804, and on the twenty-third of December he delivered his last discourse to them as their Rector from Ecclesiasticus 6:16: "A Faithful Friend is the medicine of life, and they that fear the Lord shall find Him;" "having been their rector 16 years and 10 months, during which time he never failed in a single instance of fulfilling weekly appointments and all calls to extra duties, both in and out of his Parish, nor but twice on Sundays."

"During that period thirty families joined the Church,



forty-one left the town for other parts, two became extinct by death, ten families belonging to the Church moved into town. The Grand List of the Society when he took charge of the Parish in 1788 was \$65.72, and when he resigned it was between \$1,300 and \$1,400."

One particular instance is perhaps worthy of record. "In the month of August, 1795, he was called upon to preach a Lecture and Baptize a number of Children (who were upon the Eve of being removed to the western wilderness), in Waterbury, about three miles north of the centre, near Naugatuck river. There had been a copious fall of Rain and the River was up to the Brim, but there had been constantly, for a number of years, a boat or canoe to cross in, but when arri'v'd at the place he found neither. The congregation was collected, and to go to the nearest bridge and arrive in season was impossible; to postpone until some future day was inconvenient. A proposition was made if a horse and rider could be procured to transport his effects over, he would transport himself. Accordingly, Horse and rider were found to whom he committed his effects, pointed out the place of deposit, saw them safely landed on the other Side of the River, then committed himself to the liquid element, and soon arri'v'd in safety, repaired to the House, and performed the service, Baptized eleven children and returned in the same manner."

For a year the Parish was without a rector. On December 2, 1805, the Rev. Russell Wheeler accepted a call on a salary of \$400.00 a year, to be paid at the expiration of each year, and the Society were to have the privilege of paying three-fourths of said sum in merchantable produce at the market price, and if they could not pay the entire amount the Society was to give a promissory note for the balance due. At a meeting November 7, 1807, Mr. Wheeler petitioned "that a parsonage house shall be erected one year from this date and shall give me the use of the ground on which it shall stand. Should there be any opposi-

tion to this I should be unwilling to continue. By parsonage house I mean a good decent and convenient house with a barn, a woodhouse, well, garden, etc." A committee consisting of John Merrills, Caleb Hickox, David Buckingham, Samuel Southmayd, Gerrit Smith, Charles Merriman, Eleazr Judd, Aner Bradley, James Garnsey, Cyrus B. Manvill, Ebenezer French and Abner A. Hard were chosen to solicit subscriptions for the parsonage. At a meeting in December they reported to have raised \$759.00, and had the offer of the house and lot still belonging to Mr. Prindle for \$800.00, and "they are of the opinion that with an addition it will be under all circumstances the most advantageous for the Society." The vote was passed to purchase the house, and to cut the timber from the glebe land to build such addition as shall be thought necessary. Mr. Wheeler occupied the house until his resignation April 25, 1814. In the following November, David Buckingham, Gerritt Smith, James Garnsey, Charles Merriman and Dr. Anson Tuttle were appointed a committee to confer with Rev. Frederic Holcomb and obtain from him his terms of a settlement in the Gospel ministry for one-half of the time or more. Mr. Holcomb signified his willingness to officiate in this parish and Northfield for the sum of \$600.

This parish to pay \$365 for three-fifths of the time.

"Provided Mr. Holcomb would purchase the house and lot lately occupied by Mr. Wheeler, together with the Glebe land, at a fair price and on account of the extraordinary Price of Provision, It is Mutually agreed by the Committee and Mr. Holcomb that the Society are to Pay him Ten Dollars Per Annum During the continuance of the Present war and no longer."

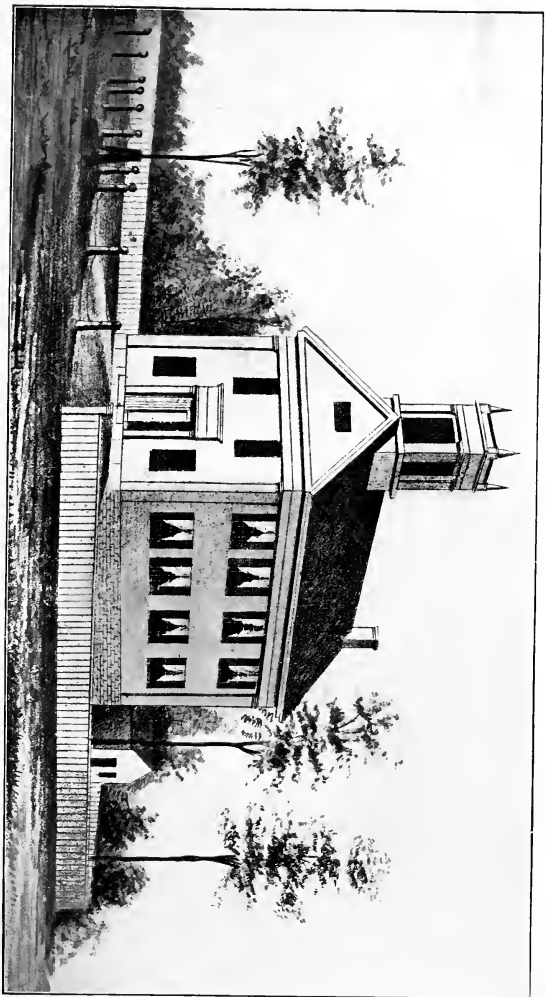
Mr. Holcomb purchased the rectory for \$1,500 and occupied the house until 1821, when he sold it back to the society, and later on resided in the house now owned and occupied by Mrs. Theodore Bronson. It was about 1816, during the early part of Dr. Holcomb's ministry, the society voted "To give liberty to have

a stove set up in the Church for the benefit of the Society and under the care of the Prudential Committee, provided it can be done by subscription and without any expense to the Society." In 1827 they decided to "set up another" under like conditions, and Marcus Bradley was appointed "to take charge of the stove and to pay him one dollar a year," which he seems to have done for a number of years and apparently perfectly satisfied with his wages. At the same time Sylvia Freeman was sweeping and dusting the Church for three dollars per year. Until January, 1837, the parish was supported by subscribers to the Society fund, bequests being made from time to time, notably from Capt. Edward Scoville and Noah Judd. Committees were occasionally appointed to reseat the Church, apparently assigning seats to families. At this meeting John Buckingham, Holbrook Curtis, Jacob Blakeslee, Cyrus Manvill, Alanson Warren, Ebenezer French, Aner Bradley and Charles Merriman were appointed "to estimate and apprise the slips," and in February they proceeded to offer the slips for sale to the highest bidder, and most of them were sold. Until January 3, 1832, the Society had services but a portion of the time.

Dr. Holcomb then severed his connection with the Northfield parish and gave Christ Church all his services on a salary of \$500 per year. Dr. Holcomb continued in charge until January, 1839, when on account of infirmities he resigned, and Rev. Dr. N. S. Richardson accepted a call and lived in a house purchased from Benajah Bryan and located on the site of the present residence of Charles B. Mattoon. This house was removed to the East Side Road and is now owned and occupied by Mrs. Sweeney. In June, 1845, Dr. Richardson tendered his resignation and accepted a call to Christ Church, Derby. Dr. Holcomb was recalled to the rectorship and served until 1849 "when admonished by age and its attendant infirmities of the necessity of lessening my labors, for the little time remaining to me on earth" he resigned the charge. He

resided in the parish until his death and although never again accepting a rectorship, he never ceased to labor, and Northfield, Bethlehem and East Plymouth will bear witness to the tribute recently paid to him and his beloved wife by Stephen Jewett, of Fairbault, Minnesota: "We seldom meet men like Dr. Holcomb. Many a time have I seen Mrs. Holcomb get him ready to go to Northfield, when it was very cold and the roads badly drifted. He would take his shovel and go on horseback, break the road for Pompey when necessary and lead him through. He never faltered and no persuasion could swerve him from the path of duty. He was a general on horseback and a true soldier of the cross. I often wanted to go with him and help him. He would say 'No boy. *You* are not strong enough; *you* would suffer.' His most violent word of reprimand was 'Tut, Tut,' when it should have been the rod, and Mrs. Holcomb would say 'We were *always* good boys.' God bless their dear, kind-hearted, honest souls. They are now in the abode of the blessed, free from the sorrow and care that came to them here."

The Academy, now Christ Church Parish House, was built during the final rectorship of Dr. Holcomb, and stood just south of the present residence of Charles B. Mattoon. In April, 1850, a call was extended to Rev. Horace Hall Reid and in the letter sent by the committee, they offer him a salary of \$600 and "will continue the donation parties." Older members of the parish will well remember how, in their young days, they anticipated the donation party at the rectory, for all the family attended, and would not fail to carry a plentiful supply of meats, vegetables, raised cake, mince pie, cheese and doughnuts, to gladden the heart of the rector and his good wife; but, it must have been a blessed relief when donation days were over for every available spot in the house was appropriated for the time being and the following morning must have disclosed a sorry sight.



THE ACADEMY.



During Mr. Reid's pastorate, the present Church and rectory were built, and the Academy removed and to-day there are those who remember the excitement of being rolled along, for the school continued in session. In May, 1853, Alanson Warren, Geo. Mallory and Nathaniel Wheeler were appointed a committee to procure a plan for a new Church, and on May 29, 1854, the corner stone was laid by Rt. Rev. John Williams, and consecrated November 15, 1855. The old Church was sold to George P. Woodruff for \$300, reserving the pulpit and reading desk.

"Grateful thanks are due to Augustus Cleveland of New York (Mr. Cleveland was an uncle of Mrs. Reid) for the liberal benefaction of a fine-toned bell and to George R. Chittenden of London, England, for the font; to Mrs. J. M. L. Scoville of Waterbury for a liberal contribution toward the erection of the Church in the home of her childhood; also to Hon. William E. Curtis of New York."

In November, 1856, Rev. Mr. Reid resigned after a successful pastorate of seven years. He preached his farewell sermon from Philippians 1:27: "Only let your conversation be, as becometh the Gospel of Christ, that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand together for the faith of the Gospel."

Rev. Benjamin W. Stone came from Newtown, Conn. His rectorship was three years. He received the appointment of Financial Secretary for the Society for the Increase of the Ministry. A unanimous call was then extended to Rev. William H. Lewis, rector of Holy Trinity Church, Brooklyn. He accepted and began his duties April 11, 1860, and until 1871 he gave his untiring labors to the parish, universally beloved. At this time advancing years made his labors too arduous. The love of the people for their devoted pastor made them willing and glad to call Rev. William L. Peck from his school at Litchfield, to assist Dr. Lewis in whatever capacity he was needed and also to

teach in the Academy. Mr. Peck remained during the rectorship of Dr. Lewis. He, too, was a faithful and conscientious preacher of the Gospel. On Easter Day, 1874, in consequence of failing health and the infirmities of age, Dr. Lewis resigned. His resignation was accepted with sorrow that necessity should sever the tie so long and happily existing between pastor and people. His faithful services in the parish, his uncommon acceptance in the pulpit, his strong practical good sense, his blameless life and conversation, his earnest zeal in all that pertained to the parish, both temporal and spiritual, will ever remain in loving remembrance in the hearts of all who were privileged to know and love him.

Rev. Dr. Francis T. Russell preached his memorial sermon from II Corinthians 1:12: "In simplicity and godly sincerity," and said: "No one familiar with the character of this godly man will for a moment doubt the propriety of these words. He was simple and earnest as a child. The one purpose he had in all his work was utter unconsciousness of self. Whoever felt the mild and genial glance of his clear blue eye, or heard him in the pulpit, when his looks adorned the venerable place, or was led by his voice in prayer, would never doubt the godly sincerity of this man." October 22, 1877, as the spire, which was the crowning glory of the Episcopal Church, and which among these hills pointed the way to heaven, was being taken down, timber by timber, the earthly house of this aged man of God was sinking hour by hour to the repose of the tomb. "Though our earthly house of this tabernacle be dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

From 1874 to the autumn of 1876, Rev. Dr. S. D. McConnell ministered in the Parish. He then accepted a call to Holy Trinity, Middletown, Conn. He has since been prominent as a preacher and writer, especially in his *History of the American Episcopal Church*.



Rev. James Stoddard was called from Westville, and for ten years was beloved by his people. He was deeply interested in the prosperity of the town, and rendered valuable assistance in the work of the library. He was succeeded in June, 1886, by Rev. H. N. Cunningham, who labored faithfully and acceptably. He was much interested in the mission at Oakville. In 1890 he removed to Waltham, Mass., feeling the field of labor was larger and Rev. John L. Nichols succeeded him. During his ministrations, the Church was re-decorated and the lectern and other memorials added to the chancel. Mr. Nichols resigned on account of ill health in July, 1894, and in October, 1894, Rev. Mr. Cunningham was recalled to the rectorship. The following Easter a vested choir occupied the new choir stalls and in February, 1896, a new organ was placed at the chancel end of the Church. About this time, Chas. A. Warren, our beloved senior warden for twenty-nine years and also filling other offices of trust and responsibility in the Church, was suddenly taken from us. Always conscientious and faithful to duty, performing it in a delicate and unostentatious manner, his high rectitude and unfailing cheerfulness won for him the respect and affection of all who knew him. His successor, Merritt Skilton, was a like-minded man. God soon called him from his useful life here and Christ Church parish mourned two faithful and devoted Christian workers. Since 1854, many names are familiar: Russell Beers, Sherman Woodward, for many years wardens; George Merriman, Hubert Scoville, Merritt Heminway, and others closely identified with the Church's work. At the present time Alfred Scoville and George Pritchard are the wardens; Harry H. Heminway, superintendent of Sunday School; Wallace Atwood, Henry H. Bartlett, William J. Munson, Paul Klimpke, B. Havens Heminway, S. McLean Buckingham, Burnett S. Johnson and Charles Smith, vestrymen; Harry H. Heminway, parish clerk.

## METHODIST CHURCH

About the year 1794, a local minister preached the first Methodist sermon in Watertown. The service was held in the house of Ebenezer Stone, which was situated north of the old Church in North Watertown, on the turnpike from Waterbury to Litchfield. In 1800 the first class was formed, with Jesse Hayes as leader. This class consisted of five women and one man.

Mr. Hayes, or as he was familiarly called, "Father Hayes," was really the father of Methodism in Watertown, "a Revolutionary soldier, a staunch patriot and a brave man. His loyalty to Methodism and his courage in fighting his spiritual battles were akin to that which he always felt for his country. His education was somewhat limited, yet he was a man of superior sense and sound judgment. His piety was never doubted. A man of strong faith in God, mighty in the Scriptures, fervent in prayer and burning with zeal for the Lord of Hosts, he made a lasting impression on all who knew and listened to him. He was an excellent class leader and a good exhorter." Every Sunday he walked from his home in Woodbury to North Watertown, where he conducted two services, was class leader, and then returned home to conduct a fourth service. The class at North Watertown thrived under his care. In 1829 he was compelled to resign his charge on account of age and infirmities. James Skilton succeeded him. At this time the class was a part of the circuit comprising Goshen, Bantam, Washington, Woodbury, Litchfield and North Watertown. In 1829 the Rev. Bradley Selleck and Rev. W. Wolcott were the circuit preachers, and Rev. Laban Clark, the Presiding Elder of the Hartford District, of which Goshen was a part. Mr. Coleman formed a Church in 1811, holding services in groves and schoolhouses until 1838, when a meeting-house was erected on Straits' turnpike. James Skilton is said to have built one corner, Levi Thompson

one corner, and funds were raised from the other members to complete the work. There was a gallery over the entrance and one narrow aisle in the centre, in which was a small stove. At weddings the couple separated when the stove was reached. The Church was dedicated by Presiding Elder Fitch Read, December 11, 1838.

On February 21, 1853, a meeting was held in the office of Dr. Catlin to discuss the feasibility of establishing Methodist worship at Watertown Centre, and it was voted desirable to have preaching here the following conference year. Much difficulty was experienced in securing a suitable place for these meetings, and the committee accepted the invitation of General Merritt Heninway to use the ball-room in his hotel during the summer. Rev. Larmon Abbot preached the first sermon here May 29, 1853. There being no facilities for heating the ball-room, during the winter the Congregational chapel was rented for the use of the Society. In October, 1854, the basement of the new Church was ready for use, and the edifice was dedicated December 13, 1854. Mr. Abbott remained in Watertown until 1858. He was succeeded by the Rev. Joseph Smith, a local preacher. Rev. A. V. R. Abbott took charge of the parish from 1859-1860.

Rev. Seymour Landon, 1861-1862; Rev. A. C. Eggleston, 1863-1865; Rev. T. A. Lovejoy, 1865-1867; Rev. W. S. Bell (supply); Rev. David Osborn, 1868-1869; Rev. B. Pillsbury, 1870-1871; Rev. T. N. Laine, 1872-1874; Rev. H. Q. Judd, 1875-1877; Rev. S. K. Smith, 1878-1880; Rev. A. H. Mead, 1881-1882; Rev. G. B. Dusenberre, 1883-1885; Rev. John Rippere, 1886-1887; Rev. J. Howard Hand, 1888; Rev. R. W. Jones, 1889-1892; Rev. I. E. Smith, 1893-1894; Rev. S. W. Tolles, 1895; Rev. N. W. Wilder, (supply); Rev. C. B. Ford, 1896-1898.

In 1897, the membership of the Church having greatly increased, it became necessary to build a larger edifice. \$9,500 was subscribed, largely through the influence and generosity of Augustus N. Woolson. He also purchased the old Church for \$1,000 and removed

it. A call for more money for carpets, organ, etc., was met by the same generous giver. And not only in his Church was Mr. Woolson's influence felt. He represented the town in Legislature, and was sent by the unanimous vote of his townsmen as delegate to the Constitutional Convention. Many homes in the town were made happier by his benevolence. It has been said that for a quarter of a century before his death there was no movement looking toward the improvement of Watertown in which he had not a prominent, if not a leading part. He was an honest and successful business man, a model citizen, a philanthropist and a sincere Christian.

Mr. Ford was succeeded as pastor of the Methodist Church by Rev. Walter Wesley Winans in 1901. He remained until 1904 and was succeeded in the same year by Rev. William McNicol, who had charge of the parish for three years. The present pastor, Rev. W. M. Warden, succeeded him in 1907. The present trustees are: Theodore F. Atwood, James B. Woolson, Walter S. Barlow, Martin V. B. Atwood, Julius J. Skilton, William B. Burton, Howard M. Hickcox, Elmore J. Bassford, Joseph W. Atwood; stewards: Edward Bryan, Thomas Gee, Bertram P. Hudson, Alfred J. Stephens, Howard Seymour, Martin A. Doolittle, Elmer A. Doolittle, William J. White, Charles F. Abbott, Frank M. Wilder, Joel H. Atwood, Robert J. Moore; Howard Seymour, recording steward of the Quarterly Conference. The trustees and stewards constitute the official board, of which B. P. Hudson is treasurer and R. J. Moore, secretary.

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#### ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

In 1841 the first Roman Catholic, Michael Dunn, came to reside in Watertown. Three years later he was joined by Anna Gaffney and Patrick Dougherty. In 1853 there were a dozen Catholics in town, comprising the families of Patrick Dougherty, Patrick

Drum, James Goodsell, John Kane, Robert Torrence and John McGowan. The first priest who visited Watertown was the Rev. Michael O'Neil, of Waterbury. He celebrated Holy Mass at the house of John McGowan, the present home of Edward McGowan. The second celebration was at the house of Robert Torrence, and the third at the house of Mrs. Harvey. The first death of a Catholic was that of Patrick Fitzpatrick, in 1853. A child of Patrick Drum was the first baptized. When Father Hendricken assumed charge of the Catholics in Watertown, he celebrated Mass monthly in what was known as Citizens' Hall, the former Episcopal Church. Father Rodden and Father Bohen of Waterbury also labored here. In 1871 Rev. James Gaffney of Thomaston, assumed charge of the parish, and continued his work until 1884. In 1877 the site of the present Church was purchased and the erection of an edifice began at once. The corner-stone was laid in 1877. On March 24, 1878, Bishop Galberry dedicated it in honor of St. John the evangelist. The Church cost \$7,000. Patrick Dunnigan and John Kane were the first trustees. In 1884, the Watertown parish was divided from Thomaston, with Terryville as a mission. Rev. Joseph Fones was the first resident priest. He remained two years. In 1886 he was succeeded by Rev. James W. Lancaster. Father Lancaster died in 1899. He was succeeded by Rev. James H. O'Donnell. Father O'Donnell renovated the Church and rectory, laid concrete walks, introduced a new heating apparatus and electric lights and liquidated the entire debt of the parish. He also purchased a cemetery lot at a cost of \$700, toward which the town donated \$300. This cemetery was blessed in 1896 by Bishop Tierney, and named Mount St. James' Cemetery. Father John Loftus, the present resident priest, succeeded Father O'Donnell in 1902. The Church trustees are: Father Loftus, Louis Brandmyer and Michael Hanning; Superintendent of Sunday School, Father Loftus.

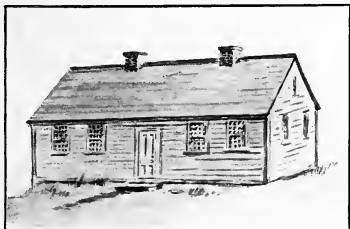
Through his efforts a fine parochial school is in process of erection.

### **Educational Development.**

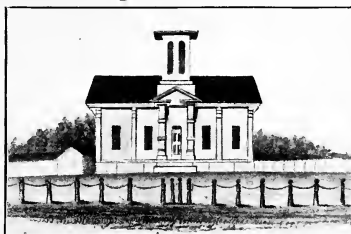
**T**HE earliest schoolhouse which we can trace, is described as a "little red schoolhouse having a huge fireplace at either end and a swing partition in the middle with which the room could be divided if necessary." William Punderson was the teacher and "it stood on the village Green," "surrounded by roads." It is very probable that the next public schoolhouse stood on the same site, as it stood on a triangular plot of ground near the site of the soldiers' monument and faced the road, now closed, which ran from Straits' turnpike past the Congregational Church.

The schoolhouse had one outside door which opened into a square entry in which were two doors, the one on the right leading into the "big room," occupied by the advanced pupils, on the left to the "little room," used by the primary class. Each room was furnished with a teacher's desk and chair, and a square box stove stood in the middle of the room. At either side a shelf was placed on an incline for the pupils to write upon, and underneath this was another shelf for their books. The benches on which the pupils sat were placed in front of these shelves and were made from slabs, the rounding side down. In order to reach these shelves, they climbed upon the benches and throwing their feet over, sat with their backs toward the inside of the room. The earliest schoolmaster of whom we have any record was William Punderson, who was paid from the public money and was to "have a dame to assist him if needed."

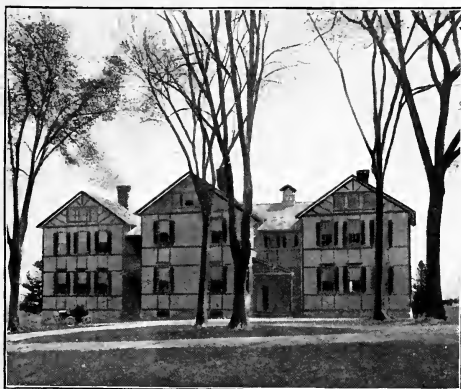
In the year 1779, at the time Westbury separated



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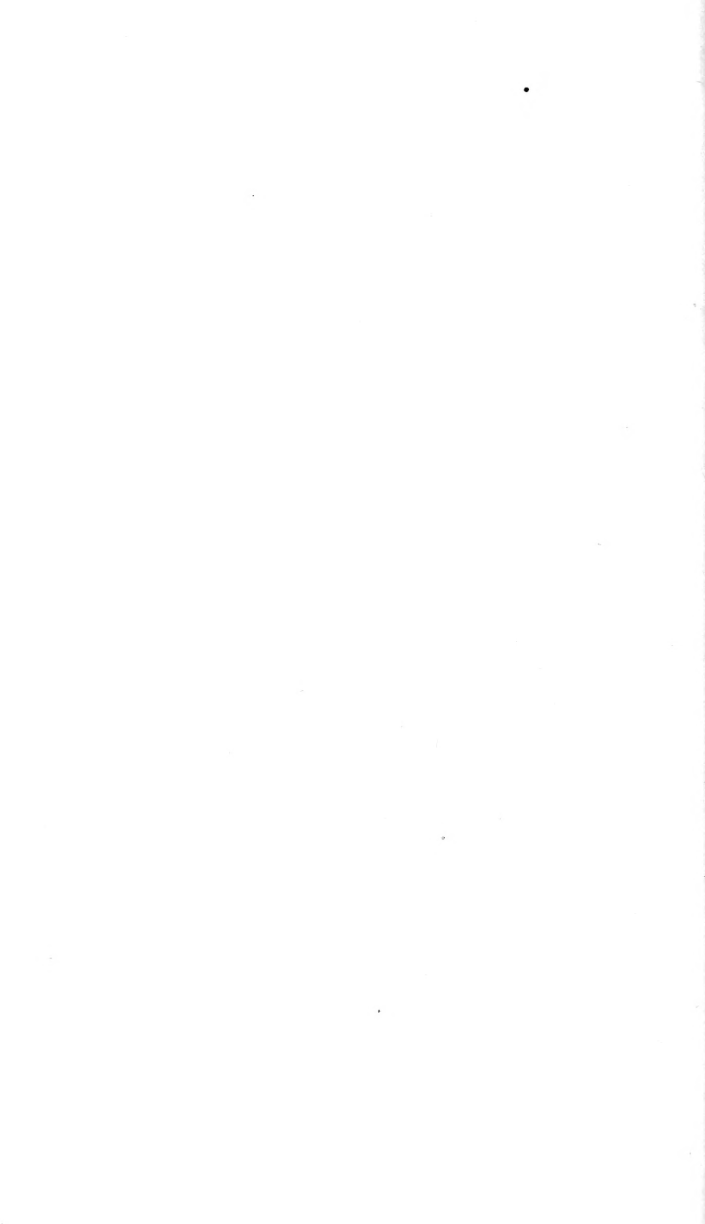


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1—SECOND SCHOOLHOUSE.      2—SCHOOLHOUSE OF 1852.  
SCHOOLHOUSE OF 1883.



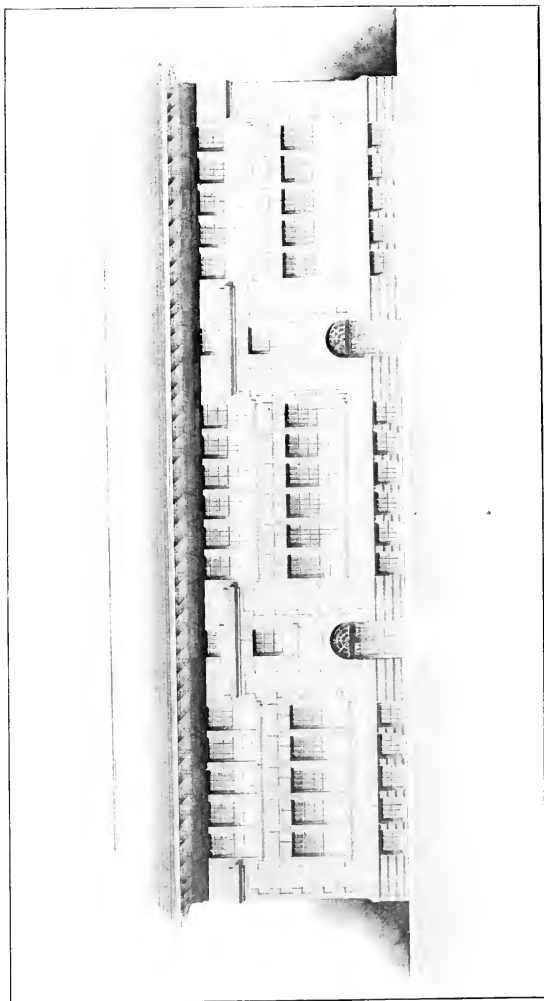


from Waterbury, its list of children was greater than that of Waterbury, as Watertown drew the larger portion of the ministerial, school and public monies as its share. In 1851, it was voted by the district to sell the old schoolhouse and build a new one. A. B. Everitt, Lewis Andrus and Charles Edwards were appointed a committee to "purchase a lot offered by Miss Lydia Woodward, upon which to locate a district schoolhouse." At an adjourned meeting held on February 10, 1852, it was voted that "the sum of \$1,600 was amply sufficient to build a schoolhouse, including fences and school fixtures and to purchase the site." The old schoolhouse was sold and moved to a site a little south of the residence of Merritt Heminway, where it was used as a blacksmith shop for a number of years, after which it was rented by Emil C. Marggraff for a harness shop. Later it was moved to a plot of ground at the foot of Mr. Heminway's garden where it still does service as a barn. The new schoolhouse was built and ready for use the same year. It stood on the present district school lot and contained two rooms which were designated the "little room" and "big room," as were those of its predecessor. The equipment of the "little room" consisted of a huge iron stove which stood in the center of the room and had an enormous capacity for large sticks of wood which were brought in by the children as the fire needed replenishing. In cold weather those nearest the stove were nearly baked, while those in the rear were quite the other extreme. The desks were of a rude, plain construction, the fronts forming the backs of the seat just ahead of them and were painted a light drab. In front were the A, B, C scholars seated on a long bench divided by little square boxes used for books. The teacher's desk, painted dark brown, stood on a raised platform. There were two extra chairs for the visitors and committeemen and sometimes as a privilege a pupil was allowed to "sit up by the teacher." The blackboards were painted on the walls, and maps

depicted the outlines of the States in vivid colors. The big room was a little more pretentious in its furnishings. The desks and chairs were of more modern construction. They were of wood mounted on iron standards and each desk contained a sunken ink-well.

The maps were more complete, and in one corner was a bookcase which contained the school library, consisting of the "Rollo" books, which told of that most perfect boy's travels at home and abroad; Oliver Optic's stories of precociously successful boys and girls; the Auriwell stories, and many others of a good moral tone. For many years there was no well in the school yard and it was a much desired privilege for two pupils to go after a pail of water to the wells of the neighboring houses. The pail and tin dipper were a prominent feature in the entry where the boys and girls hung their hats and coats. Here, too, hung the bell rope—a constant temptation to small, forbidden hands to touch. Lunch boxes were unknown but shelves bore a goodly array of tin dinner-pails. The boys wore leather boots, some of which were red tops and others had copper toes, and the girls' footwear was equally stout and noise-making though of a different cut. The teachers taught season after season and among those closely identified with the school were Miss Abbie Woodward, Miss Nancy Bronson, Miss Mary Allyn, Miss Emily Hotchkiss, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Loomis, Miss Sackett, Miss Ingersoll, Miss Mason and Truman P. Baldwin who presided over the "big room" during the winter months from 1863 until 1872. The town grew and population increased and the school-house which was built to accommodate one hundred pupils became too small and in 1883 it was voted by the district to build a new schoolhouse "upon the present school site," and to buy a small piece of land in the rear adjoining the same of Miss Lydia Woodward, the sum to be paid not to exceed \$400 and a suitable fence was to be provided for the land. A. N. Woolson, Buell Heminway, C. A. Warren and Henry T.





THE BALDWIN SCHOOL. COMPLETED IN 1907.

(Reproduced from *Drawing*.)

Dayton, were appointed a building committee. They were empowered "to move or sell the old schoolhouse, erect a school building, grade and finish the same, provided the sum total did not exceed the sum of \$8,500, which was provided." The building was erected and contained four rooms. Additions were made from time to time until there were eight rooms. Early in the morning of December 21, 1906, the school building and all its contents were burned.

On February 4, 1907, the district voted to appropriate \$50,000 to erect a new school building which should contain twelve rooms, which was confirmed March 25, 1907. After an effort to reconsider the first vote taken, F. B. Noble, Charles Atwood, Elmer Doolittle, Michael Brahen and Charles Lockwood were appointed building committee. Mr. Frederick J. Werking has been the efficient principal of the schools for thirteen years. There are eight outside districts as follows: Oakville, Poverty Street, Guernseytown, French Mountain, Linkfield, Nova Scotia, East Side and Polk District. The Guernseytown schoolhouse was built about the year 1848 to replace one destroyed by fire and the money with which it was paid was raised by subscription.

In 1839 Miss Hannah Bradley taught a select school in the law office of Hon. Holbrook Curtis, a building which stood on the site of the residence of Dr. Charles Jackson. It was moved from thence to the plot of land on which stands the house now owned by Merritt Heminway. A second story was added. One floor was used as a harness shop, and on the other the old-fashioned buskin shoes were made. These shoes were of fine morocco, sewed and turned and had no heels. They were taken to New York and sold. Later the building was fitted as a dwelling house and was moved to the right-hand corner of Straits' turnpike and Chestnut avenue and is owned by Charles Atwood.

In December, 1841, it was voted by the Episcopal Society to "permit Joseph Salkeld, son-in-law of Aner

Bradley, to keep a select school in the lecture room of the Church the ensuing year." There is little known about this school. Five years later, at an adjourned meeting held on the sixteenth of February, in Christ Church, Watertown, it was voted to purchase the place owned by Jacob Blakesley, opposite the Episcopal Church for a sum not to exceed \$1,650. George Merri- man, Hubert H. Scoville and George P. Woodruff were authorized as a committee "to sell and convey by good deed of conveyance for the Society, the south and north half-acres of land from the parsonage lot, opposite the Episcopal Church, so as to give good title to the same." The rector and other members of the Society proposed, at their cost and individual subscriptions, to erect a two-story building, the lower floor to be fitted up for a select or Grammar school. The Wardens and Vestry were to be authorized to appoint, annually, a Board of Managers, "whose business it shall be to supply teachers and to have an oversight of the institution." The upper room was to be "fitted up as a lecture room for the accommodation of the Episcopal Parish, to be used by them for religious and literary purposes and for such other ends as in the opinions of the Wardens and Vestry shall not endanger the morals of the people, nor contribute in any way to party animosity." This vote was carried into effect a little later and the building was known as the Academy and stands at the top of Academy Hill. Professor S. E. Brownell was the first teacher, "a man of fine education and master of seven languages." He was succeeded by George W. Burr, a graduate of Yale. He resigned to take charge of a school in Brookfield, Conn. His successor was George S. Williams, a graduate of Trinity College, who continued the school for three or four years. Henry A. Pratt then taught the school and was succeeded by Miss Maria Louise Townsend, a person of great dignity, very "correct in her language," and always "insisting upon a high standard of courtesy in the behavior of her young ladies and

gentlemen," and had a very tender regard for little children, sympathizing heartily in all their joys and sorrows. Her successor was Rev. C. Collard Adams, assistant to the Rev. Dr. Lewis, rector of Christ Church. After Mr. Adams came Charles E. Barton, a college graduate, who afterwards became a successful lawyer in Boston. Then Rev. W. L. Peck took charge of the Academy. He, like his predecessor, was assistant of Dr. Lewis and was very successful as a teacher and in his parochial duties. With his administration the school as an Academy was closed and is used at the present time as the parish rooms of Christ Church. Some of the pupils who attended the Academy were: Professor William E. Burr of Columbia College, designer of the memorial bridge across the Potomac at Washington and a member of the Isthmian Canal Commission; Dr. Carl E. Munger of Waterbury, Conn., who is a famed nose and throat specialist and was one of the promoters of the Gaylord Sanitarium at Wallingford, Conn.; Dr. H. Holbrook Curtis of New York; his brother, William E. Curtis, assistant treasurer under Cleveland's administration, and others who have achieved distinction in their profession.

About the year 1850, Miss Grace Dayton, who is described by a former pupil "as a well informed woman, and good teacher, conveying her ideas in a pleasant manner," opened a private school in one of the chambers of her father's house, which was the residence of the late Mrs. Caleb T. Hickox. Beginning with twelve or fifteen pupils, her school increased and she moved to an upper room of her father's shop, and later to the basement of the Methodist Church where she taught for many years with great success.

Horace D. Taft, A. M., was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, December 28, 1861. He is a son of Alphonso and Louisa (Torrey) Taft. Mr. Taft entered Yale in 1879 and was graduated in the class of 1883. He then went abroad with his father who was at that time Minister to Austria, and on his return he studied law in Cincinnati

and was admitted to the bar in 1885. Two years later he was appointed tutor of Latin at Yale. In 1890 he established a school at Pelham Manor and three years later he removed his school to Watertown and purchased the Warren house in which to conduct the school. The institution is designed to fit boys for college and scientific schools and the course of study covers five years. Mr. Taft has been very successful in his work, the school making a steady growth under his care. Alterations have been made in the building from time to time and it now accommodates seventy boarding pupils. The faculty consists of:

Head Master, Horace D. Taft, M. A.; Judson S. Dutcher, Mathematics and Physical Science; Olin C. Joline, B. A., Greek; Paul Klimpke, French, German; Harley F. Roberts, M. A., Latin; Charles H. Ward, M. A., English; Sydney B. Morton, M. A., Latin; Andrew D. McIntosh, B. A., History, English; Paul Welton, History, Physical Culture; Rev. Herbert N. Cunningham, M. A., Chaplain and Religious Instructor.

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#### WATERTOWN LIBRARY

The Library Association was formed in 1865 through the energy and influence of Rev. Dr. Lewis, rector of Christ Church, who called a meeting of those interested in founding a public library. They had little hopes of success but subscriptions were solicited and when an amount was raised sufficient to buy five hundred books and a few magazines, the library was opened in an upper room of the old Academy. Miss Nancy Bronson was appointed librarian. It remained in the Academy for about one year when it was removed to an upper room of the store now owned by Francis N. Barton. Ten years later Dr. John DeForest donated \$5,000 as a perpetual fund, the interest of which should be used for the purchasing of books. In 1879 the Legislature passed an act incorporating "the Watertown Library Association," making sure its posses-







JOHN·DE·FOREST



LIBRARY



BENJAMIN·DE·FOREST

sions. Four years later Benjamin DeForest, brother of Dr. John, gave \$15,000 for a library building which was completed and ready for occupation the following year. Dr. John DeForest then made a second donation of \$5,000 and at his death two years later he left a legacy of \$10,000 more, making in all \$20,000 which the library received from him. A number of other legacies have been received

From Hon. Leman W. Cutler, who was president of the Library Association for many years, \$3,000; Caleb T. Hickox, \$800; and Henry Platt, \$500. The building is of gray Quincy granite, and is a very attractive piece of architecture. The interior is finished in ash. Portraits of Dr. John and Benjamin DeForest, and their parents; also Leman W. Cutler and Caleb Hickox adorn the walls; attractive donations have been made by the Sexta Feira Literary Club of the "Winged Victory of Samothrace," and a bronze tablet in memory of John Trumbull, poet, who was a native of Watertown. Buell Heminway, president of the Association, presented a cast of the "Flying Mercury," and a handsome table and chairs. Samuel Curtis, a painting of buffaloes, by J. D. Howland. Benjamin DeForest Curtis has given many historical works of great value.

Miss Nancy Bronson was the efficient librarian for thirty-eight years and six months, untiring in her efforts for its growth and prosperity. In 1885, Miss Jennie Smith was appointed Assistant Librarian, as the work had become more than one could perform. In 1903, Miss Bronson resigned, and Miss Smith was made Head Librarian, with Miss Helen Upson as Assistant.

## Industrial Development.

THE history of the industrial development of Watertown began with its pioneers, and was promoted as the settlement grew, and its needs were made manifest. We who live in an age of railroads, steamboats, telegraph and telephone, electricity, and machinery, can hardly realize for one moment the difficulties which beset these early settlers of Watertown. Theirs was the "homespun age," as it has been so aptly termed. The first of importance to them was the sawmill to help build their homes, and following closely came the gristmills, or "corn-mills" as they were sometimes called. The first sawmill was built about 1722, by Jonathan Scott, on the site where the factory stands now owned by James Woolson.

Waterbury history tells us "Jonathan Scott and his wife Hannah (Hawks) Scott were the first permanent residents of Wooster-Westbury-Watertown." In 1710, Jonathan Scott and his two sons, Jonathan and John, were captured by the Indians on the Waterbury meadows. The thumb on the right hand of Jonathan, Sr., was cut off, and thus mutilated, he was taken on a long march to Canada. He was two full years in captivity, ere his return to his family, and his sons never returned to their home, thus leaving Mrs. Scott with one daughter, Martha, a child of nine, and three little boys, Gersham, seven, Eleazer, five and Daniel, three, to struggle in the wilderness. Joseph Scott, eldest brother of Jonathan, was killed by the Indians while clearing a piece of land near Reynolds' Bridge, and Scott's grave is a "recognized bounds of three farms to this day, Henry Reynold's, W. H. Switzer, and George Osborn."\* "He

\* Waterbury History.

was killed before February 7, 1708, at which date his brother Samuel was granted administration on his estate."

About the year 1725, David Scott, brother of Jonathan Scott, built another sawmill on the site where the Seymour, Smith & Company factory now stands, in Rockdale. About the year 1729, James Williams ran a gristmill, which was situated at the mouth of Spruce Brook, where now is the old dam of the Oakville Pin Company.

The next needed aid came with the fulling and carding mills. In 1764, Nathaniel Arnold sold to Abraham Norton a fulling-mill privilege on Wooster brook, which is thought to be the site of the sawmill of David Scott.\* At an early date there must have been another fulling and carding mill on the site where the Oakville Pin Company's factory now stands, "for in a deed from Stephen and Daniel Mathews to Mark Leavenworth of twenty-four acres of land in the south part of Watertown, mention is made of a fulling mill, carding machine and house on same," and here is thought to be the place where a saw and gristmill stood in 1830, owned by James Bishop. Seba Bronson had a gristmill near the upper pin factory which he sold to Gen. Gerritt Smith, who made pewter buttons until his death in 1829. It was then purchased by Scovill, Buckingham & Company, who made brass buttons and other brass goods; from them it was transferred to the Oakville Pin Company, which was organized in 1852 by Green Kendrick. "This company is especially interesting as one of the earliest pin firms on the continent and is the outcome of Chauncey Crosby's invention of a machine for sticking pins on paper." The plant consists of several large brick buildings ranging from one to two stories high, and the various departments are equipped with the latest and most approved automatic wire machines and all needed appliances, operated by

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\* Waterbury History.

either steam or water and lighted by electricity supplied by the company's own electric plant.

On the west bank of the Branch, about one-half mile from the east end of the Wigwam reservoir, stands an old time carding and fulling mill which was built about 1830 by Dennis Smith, to whom the women from all parts of that section would bring the wool in the fleece to be carded into rolls, which he would spin and weave into cloth if desired or they would carry the rolls home and spin the yarn and weave the cloth for themselves, and return it to him to be dyed and pressed. Near the residence of Mrs. Henry Skilton, in Guernseytown, was an ancient saw and grist mill, probably one of the first in Watertown which in later years has been known as "the Skilton mill." In 1834 it was owned by William Hotchkiss, who ran in connection with it a small shop which stood near the upper end of the pond and manufactured shingles, churns, cheese presses, cheese boxes, cheese hoops and hat blocks which were sold to the merchants of the town. Sleds, sleighs, grain cradles, carts and wagons were repaired. Previous to 1834, Elam Beardsley owned the mill and shop property and had cast brass buttons to be placed on the ends of the horns of cattle as an ornament and a safeguard to prevent them from injuring each other.

In 1778 Aner Bradley came to Watertown and purchased the place now owned by B. C. Atwood and built the front part of the present house, and during the same year he built a shop between the residence of B. C. Atwood and the cottage now owned by Charles B. Mattoon, in which he carried on the goldsmith's business, making gold beads, silver spoons and jewelry; also repaired watches and clocks. In 1805 he sold his house and shop to Benjamin DeForest and bought the house now owned and occupied by his granddaughter, Mrs. Elmer Welton. In 1806 he bought a narrow piece of land adjoining his home on the south of William Punder-son on which to build a shop to carry on his goldsmith business. A few years later his eldest son Aner, having

learned the tanner's trade, persuaded his father to build a tannery back of his goldsmith's shop. Here hides were sent by the different households and returned in assorted leather to be made into shoes by the traveling shoemaker who, with his lapstone and awls, made his annual trips to each family and remained until all were provided with footwear. This son, Aner, was a progressive son of a progressive father and very soon conceived the idea of making shoes as well as preparing the leather for them. For this purpose his father built a small addition to the goldsmith's shop in which to make shoes, and Mr. Bradley built a third goldsmith's shop for himself, on the ground where the John Keilty house now stands opposite the residence of Miss Mary Merriman. Mr. Bradley, during his residence in Watertown, held the office of Town Clerk for thirty years.

The Woodward tan shop was owned by David Woodward, son of Captain Abel Woodward. Mr. Woodward was a successful tanner and shoemaker. At his death in 1822 the business was carried on by his son David, until 1840 when his brothers, Israel and Andrew, entered into company with him. The tannery stood near a spring between the residence of Dr. Martin and the barn owned by Homer Heminway. A few years later Mr. Woodward built another tan shop on Cutler road, east of residence of Charles Warner. This shop was purchased by Charles A. Warren who manufactured wire forms in which to place evergreens for church decorations. The Woodward shoe shop stood between the library and the house now owned by David Woodward, of Atlanta, Ga. The shoe shop was moved to Cutler Road and is now the residence of Edward McGowan. Watertown had a hat shop where Francis N. Barton's store now stands. It was owned and occupied by Joel P. Richards who sold the business in 1785 to Alanson Warren for a consideration of \$600. Mr. Warren employed from ten to twenty apprentices and journeymen. The hat shop was moved to

Academy hill, and is now a tenement house owned by Mrs. D. C. Callender.

In the year 1849 a company was formed, composed of Alanson Warren, George P. Woodruff and Nathaniel Wheeler. They purchased the water privilege on which the Leverett-Candee-Satinet factory had been burned (the site of the David Scott sawmill), and built a mill to manufacture steel buckles and slides. Mr. Wheeler, while on a trip to New York to sell his goods, met A. B. Wilson, who had made a model of a sewing machine and was sure it would work. Mr. Wheeler became interested in the machine and in 1850 the Warren, Woodruff & Wheeler Co. contracted to build two thousand of the Wilson first patent shuttle sewing machines for a New York company who were the principal owners of the patent. In 1851 A. B. Wilson, the patentee, came to the factory to assist in building the machines and perfect another machine on a different plan, that of a rotary hook. Mr. Wilson, assisted by Joseph Wheeler, (brother of Nathaniel) perfected the machine and it was patented in 1851. It was improved and patented again in 1852. The new model was a success and a partnership was formed of Wheeler, Wilson & Co., composed of Alanson Warren, Nathaniel Wheeler, George P. Woodruff and A. B. Wilson, with a capital stock of about \$80,000. About this time Mr. Warren remarked to his son that he "would probably live to see the day when they would make and sell twenty-five machines per day." In 1853 the company was reorganized as the Wheeler & Wilson Manufacturing Co., with a capital stock of \$160,000. Alanson Warren was chosen President; George P. Woodruff secretary. Waterbury capitalists and others took the increased stock. In 1855 Mr. Warren resigned the presidency, and Nathaniel Wheeler was elected president. In June, 1856, they removed to Bridgeport and sold their plant to Seymour Smith & Son, who manufactured prunningshears and bull rings, and at one time had a hair-pin department. After the death of Seymour



Smith, the business was continued by his son, William and his two sons, George and William, Jr.

The M. Heminway & Sons' Silk Company is one of the largest and best known industries in Watertown. General Merritt Heminway was the son of John and Hannah Thompson Heminway of East Haven. He was born March 21, 1800, and came to Watertown at twenty-one years of age. He was clerk for James Bishop, who carried on the mercantile business in the basement of the Bishop Hotel, which stood on the site of the Homer Heminway residence. In 1822, a company was formed under the firm name of Bishop & Heminway, and continued until 1842, when Mr. Heminway assumed control of the business. In 1849, Mr. Heminway fitted up a building, which is a part of the present factory and had been occupied by Nathaniel Wheeler, who was engaged at that time as a wagon maker, and there began the manufacture of sewing silk in skeins. A few years later he formed a joint-stock company having his four sons and a daughter as partners, under the firm name of M. Heminway & Sons' Silk Company. Mr. Heminway was the first in this country to spool silk. The first were made to hold twelve yards each. After making a small quantity he took it to New York for the inspection and approval of the leading New York merchants of that time. They were discouraging in their opinions, believing it would stretch the silk, which would be detrimental, but Mr. Heminway was not a man to be easily discouraged. He continued to spool the silk. The sales increased and from a small force of twelve or fifteen employees, they now number about 300 in all departments. They have a factory in Waterbury, and certain branches of the work are done in New York. There are salesrooms in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and San Francisco.

After the death of General Heminway, his son Buell organized a silk company in which his son, B. Havens Heminway and Henry Bartlett are his partners under the firm name of The Heminway & Bartlett Silk Company.

The company is prosperous and have a large factory near the railroad station and employ about 150 in all departments.

In 1831, Abram B. Everett and Anthony G. Davis, a machinist, formed the company of Everett & Davis, purchased a small water privilege and about an acre of land on the street running east from the Greenville bridge. On this land were two small houses, in which they lived, one opposite the residence of James B. Woolson, and the other opposite the so-called Everett house. There was also a small shop, 14 feet x 18 feet, which had been used for carding wool and fulling cloth. In this they manufactured mouse-traps of wood. In 1842 or '43 they built a factory two stories high with a bell tower. Eli Curtiss, proprietor of the DeForest store, contracted with Everett & Davis to make soft metal rings and corset eyelets. Mr. Curtiss was his own traveling salesman and sold these goods, as well as mouse-traps, on commission. This factory was burned.

In January, 1850, the Watertown Manufacturing Company was formed, with a capital stock of \$30,000, to manufacture sewing silk, mouse-traps, umbrella sticks, machinery and other goods. The stockholders were A. G. Davis, A. B. Everett, Eli Curtiss, L. W. Cutler, Benjamin DeForest, Sr., Dr. John DeForest, Alanson Warren, Sr., George Mallory, Abram Hawley, Caleb T. Hickox, Joel Hungerford, Dr. Allyn Hungerford, Samuel Peck, Sr., Friend Davis, Jeremiah Peck, and David Woodward. A. G. Davis was elected President, A. B. Everett, Secretary and Treasurer. A factory valued at from \$5,000 to \$6,000 was built on the site of the Jonathan Scott sawmill, then owned and used as a sawmill by Jeremiah Peck, and the bell of the old factory was hung in the tower.

In 1861, Everett & Davis again purchased it and four years later Augustus N. Woolson succeeded Mr. Everett and the firm name was changed to Davis & Woolson. Mr. Davis built many of the original machines

used in the factory. Mr. Davis died January 18, 1873, and Mr. Woolson assumed control of the business and continued for over thirty years. Augustus N. Woolson was a man of wonderful energy and ability and soon built up a prosperous business, necessitating additions to the factory from time to time. Mr. Woolson continued to manufacture the mouse-traps, but gave more attention to umbrella and parasol trimmings. Henry S. Frost was Superintendent during Mr. Woolson's ownership, and aided the business by his popularity with the employees as well as in reconstructing and building new machines for special purposes. Augustus N. Woolson died July 20, 1903. He left the business to his son James B. Woolson, under whose name it still continues.

James Bishop and Lucius Bradley made wooden clocks in a factory on the site of the Homer Barlow mat shop. It was burned with a warehouse full of clocks ready for shipment.

In 1860, Joseph Wheeler bought the water privilege, and built the present factory in which were made sewing machine supplies which were shipped to the Wheeler & Wilson Company in Bridgeport. Later his son, Eli, made turned goods and wagons. In 1855, John Barlow made carriage and door mats from sheep skins in the Woodward tannery on Cutler Road. A few years later he moved across the way where he had built a small shop. He continued the business for about twenty years when it was purchased by Samuel A. Merwin, who continued in the trade until his death. In 1890, Homer Barlow purchased the Joseph Wheeler property to manufacture mats and other useful household articles from sheep skins, which he procures at home and abroad, many coming from Canada, China and Venezuela. Erastus Barlow, brother of Homer, is engaged in the same business near his residence on Cutler Road. About the year 1867, Walter S. Capewell purchased a small casting shop in Oakville, from Gaylord, Armstrong & Warner. Mr. Capewell remodeled

the building to manufacture shot pouches, powder flasks and shot belts. Mr. Capewell continued the business until October 1, 1892, when the property was purchased by Joseph Baird and Frederick E. Warner under the firm name of Baird & Warner, manufacturing automatic wire machinery and bottle fasteners. The business prospered and on July 1, 1894, a joint-stock company was incorporated under the firm name of Baird Machine Company. Additions have been made to the plant from time to time and the company has become a well known and leading industry.

### Mercantile Interests.

**T**HE first merchant in Watertown was Wait Smith, who bought the house owned and built by Jonathan Scott, better known in these days as the Eliel Daily place. He began the mercantile business in the house known as the Patrick Dougherty place. He was succeeded by his son, General



PATRICK DOUGHERTY HOUSE.

Gerritt Smith, whose dwelling was on the site of the present residence of Mrs. Louisa Warren. He built a store on the site of the brick building now used by the Fire Department. He was a popular and successful merchant for many years. His successor was John Morris, who sold the business to Amos Gridley, his son-in-law. Mr. Gridley moved the old store to the rear of the lot for a warehouse and built the brick building previously mentioned. He also moved the house which Gerritt Smith built, to the rear of the lot, which faced on Straits' turnpike, and built a new residence for himself. Young Love Cutler was the next merchant in Watertown. He kept a small stock of merchandise in

the west part of the residence of Dr. Walter S. Munger, who later built a store on the site of the brick building now owned by H. P. Bissell. Across the door in large letters was the hospitable invitation "Walk In." In 1830, John and Benjamin DeForest bought the store of Young Love Cutler and conducted a successful business, taking produce of the farmers and giving in payment one third cash. The remainder was given in a due bill, which could be presented at the store and the amount of purchase was credited on the bill. In 1817, John DeForest and his brother Benjamin dissolved partnership and the latter continued the business, moved the old store and built the present brick building. In 1825, he sold it to Eli Curtiss, who introduced the industry of braiding fine plant hats. These hats were made by the women of the different households for many miles around. For a very fine hat one dollar and fifty cents was paid for braiding and less for the coarser ones. Thus the women were able to help support their families.

Mr. Curtiss was succeeded by Orrin Starr, whose wife was the daughter of Rev. Dr. Holcomb. Mr. Starr conducted a successful business until his death, September 26, 1869. Myron McNeil succeeded him and continued in trade until 1881, when it was purchased by B. C. Atwood and David Woodward. Mr. Woodward soon removed to Atlanta, Ga., where he manufactures doors, blinds, and all kinds of interior woodwork. Mr. Atwood established both a hardware and drug store. He received the appointment of postmaster, and the post office was located in the same building. In 1906, the building was purchased by H. P. Bissell, who continues the drug business, Levi Southworth acting as manager. The store owned by Francis N. Barton for the past twenty-two years was built by William Merriman, who conducted a general mercantile business. It stood between the residence of Theodore Bronson and Frederick H. Bronson. Mr. Merriman was succeeded by his son Harry, who moved the store to the southeast corner of the Taft School Park. It

was purchased by George Mallory and George P. Woodruff, under the firm name of Mallory & Woodruff. About 1839 or '40, it was practically destroyed by fire and was abandoned nearly two years, when it was purchased by Warren & Newton, who rebuilt it and conducted a general store in connection with the suspender factory in Oakville. After six years they dissolved partnership. A new company was formed called the Phoenix Company. Alanson Warren, George P. Woodruff, Charles A. Warren and Samuel A. Merwin were the principal stockholders and Samuel A. Merwin was the manager. They continued the mercantile business until it was purchased by Charles A. Warren and Samuel A. Merwin, who moved the store to the present site. In 1860, they were succeeded by Lewis & St. John. Later it was owned by Robert B. Lewis and then by Frost & Brown, who sold it to Francis N. Barton, the present merchant.

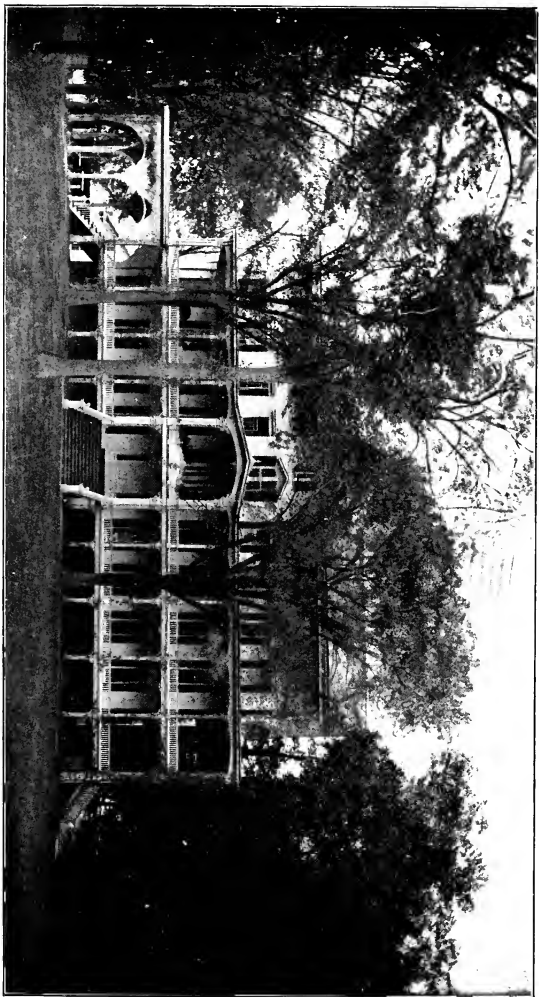
The brick store which stands opposite the residence of Merritt Heminway was built in 1828 by Bishop, Heminway & Hickox, who conducted a general mercantile business. In 1830, Mr. Hickox retired from the firm and Bishop & Heminway continued in trade until 1837, when they dissolved partnership. General Heminway continued the business until 1842, when Charles Partree entered into partnership with him. In 1855, Mr. Heminway assumed control and his sons became his partners. They were succeeded by T. E. Barnes, Fredus Ladd, Henry J. Mattoon, Burton H. Mattoon and brother, and John Keilty.

There are in Watertown at the present time three drug stores, one owned by H. P. Bissell, one by Daniel G. Sullivan, and one in Oakville by William Hungerford. There are five general stores conducted by Francis N. Barton, John Keilty, Andrew Barton, George Barton and W. H. Jones, the two latter being in Oakville. The Hitchcock Hardware Company, located in Pythian Hall building and Joseph Suffa & Company, plumbing and heating, in the H. P. Bissell building.

## Tavern Days.

**H**OSTELRIES were located on all the post roads of the country, but those of New England were unique. On these post roads were toll gates. There was one at North Watertown near the French Mountain school house. There Aunt Mollie Hartshorn was the gate keeper; the other where O. A. Hartman now lives on Woodbury Road. Aunt Electa and Aunt Hannah Osborn collected the toll, and these good women were familiar figures to all travellers from the country roundabout. The old stagecoach was a lumbering vehicle, hung on thorough braces which lurched over the road like a ship at sea. They usually had three seats, the back of the middle seat being formed of straps to support the backs of the passengers. The progress of the coach was eagerly anticipated along the highway, farmers stopped their work to watch it out of sight and at every house, faces at the windowpanes looked out at the passengers. When the coach drew up at the inn, to change horses, or perchance to remain over night, a bugle call would be heard from afar, the signal for everyone to gather on the porch as the coach stopped, with a flourish. The portly landlord welcomed his guests with a hearty hand clasp, his stentorian voice calling for the stable boys to take the horses and look after the luggage. All was a whirl of excitement, packages were delivered to waiting recipients, the ladies ushered into the parlor and the men into the tap room. In the low-studded rooms were hardwood oak floors, white and sanded, a blazing fire in the fireplace, the chief center of attraction. During the half hour after the arrival, the bar





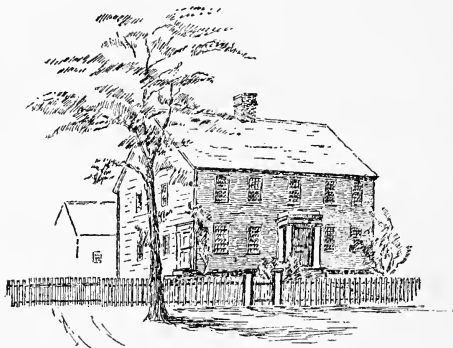
WARREN HOUSE. PRESENT TAFT SCHOOL.



did a brisk business in toddy, flip and punch, of which the ideal landlord was master. In early days all classes of people indulged in the practice of drinking in moderation, and as often as occasion demanded. Here many interesting types could be seen,—the up-country farmer, the merchant dressed in broadcloth, a cattle-drover in hip boots, the country parson, the rural politician,—for taverns were political centers. Supper was served, plain roast beef, chickens, vegetables, baked beans, brown bread, hot and steaming, Tallman sweetings, spare rib of pork, apple dumpling with potato crust and pandowdy tempted the hungry travellers. After supper more green wood was heaped on the fire, a bowl of extra brew, the guests fill their long clay pipes and enjoy an evening of gossip and adventure. As they become drowsy, a pretty maid, candle in hand, escorts them to their chambers. If the night is cold a warming pan is passed over the sheets and the traveler, buried deep in a feather bed, is oblivious of all about him until morning. We must not leave the tavern without a peep into the spacious attic. Here are quilting frames, carding machines, spinning wheels, looms, pumpkins and squash in motley array, while from the rafters overhead hang strings of fragrant herbs,—motherwort, pennyroyal and everlasting dried apples and peppers.

The house now owned and occupied by Charles B. Buckingham has for many years been a landmark to generations of travelers on their journeys from the country towns to the city. It was built in 1772 by Rev. John Trumbull, for a Congregational parsonage. Later the house was purchased by Colonel Edmund Lockwood and used as a tavern, and a large ball room added. Shortly before the opening of the nineteenth century the house came into the possession of Captain David Woodward, son of Abel Woodward of Revolutionary fame, and for a score of years thereafter it passed through the most important period of its existence. The golden age of the stagecoach brought

business and prestige to this convenient and sumptuous tavern. Captain Woodward did not live to see these prosperous days of the stagecoach decline before the inexorable progress of the railroad. He died in 1822.



RESIDENCE OF CHAS. B. BUCKINGHAM.

His widow and children continued to occupy the old homestead. It descended to the eldest daughter Abby. The ball room was removed to a nearby lot and transformed into the house now owned by David Woodward of Atlanta, Georgia. The old tavern in later years descended to Mrs. Henry Davis, passing from the Woodward family to its present owner in 1905.

Among the most famous hostelries in Connecticut, none was perhaps more popular than "Bishop's Tavern." It stood on the turnpike from Litchfield to New Haven, on land now owned by Homer Heminway. It was built by Noah Judd for his son Eleazer, who managed it for many years and sold it to James Bishop. The architecture of the house is typical of one hundred years ago. It was encircled by a veranda. On the east and south sides steps led up to the doors. This tavern was the rendezvous for all who came to Watertown to trade. The village was at that time a market

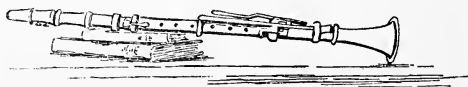
town, and people came from Waterbury, Bethlehem, Minortown, Plymouth and Middlebury, ready to trade anything from a farm or horse to a jack-knife. Very



BISHOP'S TAVERN.

little money exchanged hands in purchase of goods, exchange and barter being the common method. Board cost \$1.50 per week. A horse and carriage could be hired all day for sixty cents. Mr. Bishop was a man of fine physique and good personal appearance. He had not much culture, but possessed a personal magnetism which made him a leader of men. He was a farmer, a merchant and an innkeeper. The great meadow opposite the inn, containing fifty acres, belonged to him and it was one of his hobbies to have the grass cut from it in a single day. Mr. Bishop owned a hotel in New Haven, a branch of the Watertown tavern. One year he announced that he proposed to take the hay from the great meadow to New Haven in a single load. Twelve yoke of fine red Devons, with wide-spreading horns, were secured, each yoke driven by a colored man in uniform. A wagon with special rigging and several pairs of wheels was secured. Men were sent to inspect the road, bridges were strengthened, trees were cut down, turnpike gates, and in one instance, a small building removed. The horns of the oxen were decorated with scarlet streamers and there were scarlet housings on their yokes and shoulders. On the load of hay was a band of music which played inspiring strains from time to time. The clarionet played on that occasion by Chester Scott is now in

possession of Charles Smith, a quaint wooden instrument with ivory ferules and brass keys. Mr. Bishop preceded the cavalcade in a barouche drawn by a pair of handsome gray horses. Outriders and mounted marshals cleared the way and gave orders. Everybody from Watertown to New Haven was on the alert, and the highway was lined with spectators. There is no doubt that this extraordinary performance advertised "Bishop's tavern" and added greatly to its fame. General Merritt Heminway became Mr. Bishop's partner and together they managed the hotel for several years.



CLARINET.

In 1840 General Heminway purchased the tavern and continued it for about twenty years. It was moved to its present site on the east side about fifty years ago, and converted into a tenement.

On the place known as the Hiram French place, southeast of the house now owned by Mrs. Clark Woodward stood an old time tavern. The history of this hostelry is very meagre, but we are told that Mr. Daniel Hickox was at one time the landlord and that his eldest child was born there in 1765. It was on the old military road and was discontinued after the building of Straits' turnpike.

There was also a tavern near the present home of Charles Woodruff.

In possession of one of Watertown's oldest inhabitants, is a quaint invitation to a ball given in Morris, written on a four-spot of clubs. The card reads as follows: "The company of U. Hickox is requested at D. Harrison's ball room, Wednesday, February, 1 p. m. L. Hotchkiss, S. Pierpont, A. Johnson, U. Hickox, Managers."

A little north of the old cemetery, upon the east side

of the road, there stood eighty years ago, a very old house, two stories in front and one in the rear, occupied and owned by Samuel Dayton, the father of Truman and Glover Dayton. This house is said to have been built by a man named Scott, who kept a hotel before the Revolution, where it was said that the flip-iron never cooled during the winter solstice.

About two miles north of Watertown Center, on Straits' Turnpike, stood an old brown lean-to house known as the Foote Place, which was convenient for travelers. Early in the 1830's a daughter, Sabra Foote, married Selah Scoville, who removed the old house and on its site built a large modern tavern, with the finest and most commodious ballroom in this section. Hither came crowds of merrymakers from the surrounding towns, even as far as Cornwall Bridge, to enjoy the supper and jolly dances for which the house was famous.

Mr. Myron McNeil, one of Watertown's oldest residents at the present time, has related an interesting incident of the Scoville Hostelry. There was to be a public dance on the Fourth of July. Lemonade was to be one of the beverages, and fifty lemons were needed. Mr. McNeil was dispatched to Waterbury with orders to procure them in Waterbury if possible; if not, to go to Naugatuck. He was only able to get twenty-five in Waterbury, and went to Naugatuck for the remaining twenty-five.

In a letter received by Mrs. Sabra Scoville, dated at Watertown, January 7, 1849, we read that although "the wind blew a hurricane, with the snow fifteen inches deep and flying so that the dooryard fence could not be seen," forty horses were in the stables and one hundred and thirty suppers were served to young people assembled for a dance. Six turkeys, eight chickens and eight gallons of oysters were prepared for the enjoyment of the guests. This was the last occasion on which the ballroom was opened for a public dance. To this tavern also came teamsters for exchange of horses.

Oystermen from Fair Haven, fifteen or twenty in a single day, with two-horse loads of oysters on the way to Albany, which were distributed to other parts of the country. Loads of cheese and pork from Goshen on the way to New Haven for shipment to the West Indies. From Vermont, droves of cattle and horses, especially the lazy Canucks, used in the West Indies for treading out sugar cane. The popularity of Scoville's Tavern, under the management of Selah Scoville and his son Hubert, continued for twenty-two years, and to-day the house stands, changed but little in outward appearance, occupied as a private residence by Alfred H. Scoville, son of Hubert, and grandson of Selah Scoville.

In 1865-66 a hotel was built by the Warren family. The site was the rear of the old Harry Merriman place and the "Corner Store." The "Warren House" was an imposing structure with a cupola, long, wide verandas and a broad flight of steps. It had its own plant for the manufacture of illuminating gas. Water was supplied from distant springs, and a sewer was built to Dayton's pond for its drainage. All conveniences known at that time were installed. The furniture was handsome and substantial; there was a commodious ballroom with a musicians' gallery of wrought iron; there were single rooms and rooms *en suite*; public parlors and bath rooms. The coming of the "hotel folks" was a great event in Watertown, and was eagerly awaited year by year. W. C. Burroughs, a man well-known, popular, and of great experience, was the first landlord. After several years of successful management, Augustus Smith succeeded him. Mr. Smith and his wife were great favorites with the townspeople, as well as with the hotel guests. He was a plain out-spoken man, expressing himself in a quaint, humorous manner, and many of his jokes are still remembered. The hotel was kept open during the winter months and several Watertown families closed their houses and boarded there, so that the social



life of the establishment was continued throughout the year. It was a favorite terminus for sleighing parties and many a good supper and jolly dance was enjoyed there. Mr. Ashby, the clerk, was very popular and when a severe attack of illness ended fatally, it was a genuine sorrow to those who had known him. The next landlord was Judah Swift, popularly known as "Sheriff" Swift. "Billy" Booth, bright and witty, but handicapped by deformity, an expert telegraph operator, was his clerk. "Sheriff" remained at the Warren House until George A. Woodruff, a son of one of the original proprietors, came into possession of the property and took charge as landlord. During his management the custom of holding a series of dances during the winter became popular. The last two landlords were S. LaFarge and Mr. Southworth. There were no local attractions in Watertown except the drives and views, and the hotel lost its prestige. It was closed as a hotel in 1890. It was purchased in 1893 by Horace D. Taft, of Pelham Manor, N. Y., who established his well-known school within its walls. Outwardly the building remains practically unchanged. The great sign on which the name of "Warren House" proclaimed the identity of the building has disappeared; the evergreen and other trees have grown larger, but around the well-known place, lingers the atmosphere of delightful recollections and the memory of many pleasant days.

The ancient hostelry and the stagecoach are of the past, but the memory of the older generation reverts to the time when Harry Fenn, Edmund Fairchild, Myron McNeil and others were important characters on the turnpike between Watertown and Hartford, taking passengers all along the way and charging one dollar for the trip. And later a daily stage between here and Waterbury.

This stage carried the mail. The postoffice accommodations were meagre compared with the present, and the mails small. A clock-case with black velvet

on back and sides, and tapes nailed across in sections was the receptacle for the few letters. Postage twenty cents each. The following report shows the increase in the past fifty-five years:

Total number of letters mailed in one week, October 12 to October 19, 1861, 281.

Total number of letters mailed in one week, October 12 to October 19, 1862, 300.

Total number of letters received in one week, October 12 to October 19, 1862, 500.

Total number of letters received in one day, October 21, 1862, 81.

Total number letters and postals mailed in one day, October 21, 1907, 877.

Total number of letters and postals mailed in one week, October 12 to October 19, 1907, 2,056.

Total number of pieces mailed in one week, October 12 to October 19, 1907, 3,431.

Total number of money orders issued in one year, ending October 20, 1907, 1,850.

Total amount of cash received for same, \$18,295.48.

Total amount of cash received for fees on same, \$132.57.

Number of money orders paid in one year, ending October 20, 1907, 602.

Amount of cash paid out for 602 money orders, \$5,111.88.

Number of letters registered during year ending October 20, 1907, 730.

Total number of pieces of mail delivered by two R. F. D. carriers for one year, ending September 30, 1907, 94,599.

Total number of pieces of mail collected by two R. F. D. carriers for one year, ending September 30, 1907, 23,103.

Total weight of mail and equipment sent away July 1 to September 30, 1907, 6,139½ pounds.

Respectfully, B. C. ATWOOD, Postmaster.  
Watertown, Conn., Oct. 25, 1907.

The weekly *New Haven Palladium* and the *Register* were the only newspapers received here, and they had very few subscribers. There is a quaint item in the *Connecticut Journal*, printed in New Haven, April 13, 1796:

Found—fome time in February laft, a black fpotted muff fpotted red and white, lined with blue shalloon, and ftuffed with tow—The owner may have it by applying to the fubfcriber and paying charges.

JAMES W. FOSTER.

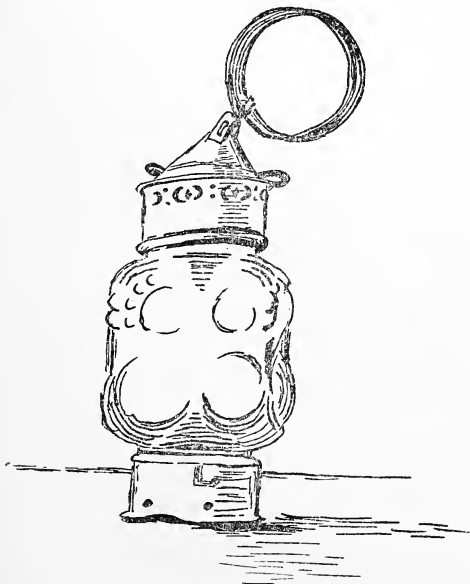
Watertown, March 18, 1796.

It was in 1845 the first whistle of the locomotive sounded along the Naugatuck Valley and the smoke floated up the mountain side. It was a small engine fired with wood.

In 1871 Watertown's peaceful quiet was disturbed by the incoming and outgoing trains. Two each way daily between Watertown and Waterbury. Fare 40 cents. To-day, twelve tickets for \$1.00.

The trolley has been built this year as far as French road, and doubtless will be continued through the town.

Mr. Myron McNeil and Col. William B. Hotchkiss were the stage-drivers familiar to the present generation. Mr. McNeil, veteran of all, and the only one living to tell us of the good old days. He has now passed his four-score years. With mind still vigorous he delights to recall the scenes and friends of youth and manhood.



THE LANTERN THAT WAS CARRIED BY MYRON MCNEIL ON THE  
STAGE COACH FOR MANY YEARS.

## Probate Court.

THE first probate court was held at Woodbury. Waterbury and Westbury were included in that district. The records were kept in Woodbury from 1719 to 1779. After that date, the court was held at Waterbury until 1834 when a probate district was formed at Watertown. The judges have been as follows:

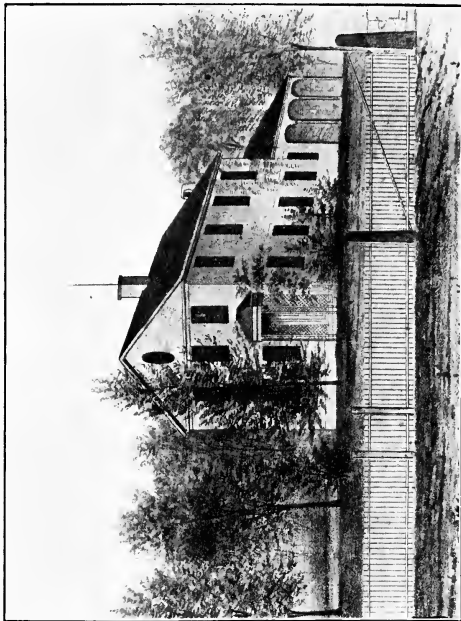
Holbrook Curtis, July 1834 to July 1836; Benjamin De Forest, July 1836 to July 1837; Merritt Heminway, July 1837 to July 1838; Holbrook Curtis, July 1838 to July 1846; Charles S. Woodward, July 1846 to July 1847; Holbrook Curtis, July 1847 to July 1850; Allyn M. Hungerford, July 1850 to July 1852; Leman W. Cutler, July 1852 to January 1877; Allyn M. Hungerford, January 1877 to January 1879; William Hotchkiss, January 1879 to June 1890. Mr. Hotchkiss died in office. Howard M. Hickox, January 1891 to the present date.

In 1864 the town appointed "George Mallory and others" to act as a committee to purchase the brick building owned by Amos Gridley. The deeds were drawn and property transferred April 1st of the same year. This building was fitted up as a Town Hall. Previous to that time all town meetings were held in the Congregational Chapel, which stood near the present post office. In 1894 the town voted to appropriate \$18,500.00 to erect a new town hall and appointed William J. Munson, Buell Heminway, Augustus N. Woolson, Charles B. Mattoon and Edson B. Lockwood building committee. The building was completed, leaving a balance in the treasury of \$145.64 from the appropriation and accepted by the town October 16, 1895.





LEMAN W. CUTLER



RESIDENCE OF LEMAN W. CUTLER

Hon. L. W. Cutler was born December 12, 1807, in the house now owned by Dr. W. S. Munger. He was the youngest son of Younglove and Anna Woodward Cutler. He entered Yale College in 1826, was elected Representative from Watertown for five terms, was State Senator in 1845 and 1856 and State Comptroller during the Civil War.

He was Judge of Probate for twenty-four years and retired at seventy years, the age limit. He was Town Clerk thirty-nine years and Town Treasurer ten years and County Commissioner six years. He was one of the oldest members of Federal Lodge and was Treasurer for many years. He was an honored and beloved citizen.

## Physicians.

THE first physician in Watertown was Dr. John Warner, who was born in Watertown and removed to Stratford, returning to Watertown in 1724. He built a house across the way from Ebenezer Richard's home, better known as the Esquire John Buckingham place in Oakville. Others have been as follows: Thomas Foot, Benjamin Hull, James Elton, John Elton, and Samuel Elton.

The name of Elton in connection with the practice of medicine was known in Watertown for a period of ninety years. Dr. Samuel Elton had, in some respects, ways and opinions peculiar to himself. Truth, honesty, temperance and economy were with him cardinal virtues. He was of a social nature. Cheerfulness he regarded as a cordial. His practice was among all classes and for fifty-eight years he went out and in among the people of this community doing all that man could do to relieve and save.

Other physicians were Drs. Reuben Woodward, Norman Bull, John DeForest, Garwood Atwood, Allyn M. Hungerford, Samuel Catlin, Henry Hart, Rev. Frederick Woodward, Frank P. Esterly, Eugene French, Arthur D. Variell, and Richard Mueller. Resident physicians are: Dr. Walter S. Munger, who has been a practicing physician in Watertown for fifty years, and is greatly beloved and respected by his townsmen; Drs. Ernest K. Loveland, James Martin and Charles Jackson, who established a sanitorium in 1903 on the place formerly known as the Augustus Hamilton residence.







DR. SAMUEL ELTON



DR. WALTER S. MUNGER

### John Trumbull—Poet.

REV. John Trumbull married Sarah Whitman of Farmington in 1744. Four children were born of this union. John, the fourth child and second son, was born in 1850. At the age of seven years he passed a good examination for Yale college. On account of his extreme youth he did not enter upon his studies there until six years later. In 1771 he and Timothy Dwight were chosen tutors of Yale College. In 1773 he was admitted to the bar of Connecticut as practicing attorney. He then went to Boston and entered as student in the office of John Adams, afterward second President of the United States. He was the author of "The Progress of Dullness," a poem ridiculing some of the clergy of his time, and "McFingal," a burlesque poem of the Revolution, a production that had much influence both at home and abroad. It was printed in 1782 and passed through forty editions. Mr. Trumbull was also a prominent member of the "coterie of thinkers and doers known as the Hartford wits," a group of men who stimulated and shaped an improved style of thinking and writing advocated in a publication of which Hartford was the center. We are in possession of a poem written by Mr. Trumbull in a lighter vein, published in the New York *Evening Post* in 1775. The occasion of it is thus related: "Trumbull and Thomas Wooster were fellow-students in the office of Judge Matthew Griswold, father of Governor Roger Griswold, of Connecticut. Both of them were in the habit of visiting the family of the Honorable J. P. Cook, whose daughter was a young lady of uncommon beauty and accomplishments. Wooster became ex-

travagantly fond of her, but she conducted herself with the prudence and dignity becoming her station, not manifesting partiality for him more than for others who visited the house. At a party at Mr. Cook's one evening, Trumbull, who was always full of vivacity, observed to Nancy that Tom was so bashful that he could never muster up courage enough to tell her how much he loved her, and therefore he intended to persuade him to address her by letter. Soon after he wrote the following witty lines, and sent them to Nancy without the knowledge of Wooster. None were offended and the circumstance became the subject of much mirth at subsequent family parties. It is supposed to have been published about the time it was written, but the friend to whom we are indebted for our copy took it some thirty-five years ago from the old manuscript in possession of an old gentleman who studied law years before in Judge Griswold's office, when it was found in the drawer of an old table which had been occupied by Wooster and Trumbull:"

"To thee, dear Nancy, thee my sweeting,  
Poor Colonel Thomas sendeth greeting,  
Whereas so pleased the powers above  
I'm fallen desperately in love,  
For Cupid took a station sly  
In one bright corner of your eye,  
And from his bow let fly a dart,  
That missed my ribs, but pierced my heart,  
Pierced through and through and passing further  
Put all my insides out of order.  
Nor this the only plague, I found.  
As mice into a cheese will creep  
Through some small scratch and entering deep,  
While all without looks fair and well,  
They leave your house an empty shell;  
So thievish love when once got through  
Stole off and bore my heart to you,  
And left me heartless, still at ease,  
An empty shell like aforesaid cheese.  
I, Colonel Tom, being in great smart,  
Beseech you to return my heart,  
Or else to cure my ceaseless moan,

Make an exchange and send your own;  
 O, Nancy, thee I love more fully,  
 Than ever Hudibras loved Tully,  
 Not Eneas of old nor Dido  
 Could love one half as much as I do.  
 I hold my Nancy more a goddess  
 Than Venus gay or Dian modest.  
 Throughout the world thy glories shine,  
 Nor hath the sun such powers as thine;  
 Thy beauty keeps the world together,  
 Thy looks make fair the cloudy weather,  
 And if a drought should come again,  
 If you should frown, I know 'twould rain.  
 For you the earth produces flowers,  
 For you clouds drop in lovely showers;  
 Fruits only grow that you may eat,  
 And pigs and calves to find you meat.  
 Your cheering smiles which we observe,  
 Should you withdraw, the world would starve,  
 Earth would refrain her wonted store,  
 And plums and peaches be no more.  
 O, Nancy, would you love but me,—  
 How mighty glad poor Tom would be!  
 I'd stick to you like pitch forever  
 Nor chance, nor fate our love should sever.  
 Then love me, Nancy, for I tell you,  
 I'm a very clever fellow.  
 And you must think 'tis true, for why?  
 No one can tell as well as I,  
 Here follow then without objections  
 The rent-roll of poor Tom's perfections.  
 Know then, all womankind, that I,  
 When stretched out straight am six feet high,  
 Whence from plain reasoning, it appears,  
 I'm one of Nature's grenadiers.  
 Yet, I do whisper this between us,—  
 Serve only in the Wars of Venus,  
 I'm fair and one good sign, observe is,  
 I have *red hair*, ma'am, at your service.  
 Of wit I brag not, yet have brains  
 Enough to *walk in* when it rains,  
 I know the odds 'twixt cheese and chalk,  
 To tell a hand-saw from a hawk,  
 To cane a man should he abuse me  
 Or hang myself, should you refuse me."

Mr. Trumbull in later years moved to Detroit. In

the Watertown library hangs a beautiful bronze tablet presented by the Sexta Feira bearing this inscription:

“To John Trumbull,  
Author of McFingal—the poem  
of the Revolution.  
Born in Watertown 1750  
Died, 1831.”

## Evergreen Cemetery

FROM the earliest settlement of Watertown, until the year 1854, only one place of burial had existed within the town limits. Great difficulty was experienced in providing suitable places in the old cemetery for the burial of the dead. In view of this fact, some of the citizens united in forming an association to procure and arrange a place where they and others might have a suitable place for interment. The following officers were chosen:

Trustees, George P. Woodruff, Chairman; Alanson Warren, Abram B. Everett, Hubert Scoville, Russell S. Beers, George Mallory, Reuben Hungerford, M. D.; Secretary, Reuben Hungerford, M. D.; Treasurer, Charles G. Edwards; Superintendent, Charles G. Edwards.

A piece of land situated near the center of the town, containing one and one-half acres was purchased for \$1,200. It has been graded, cultivated, laid out in paths and beautified by shrubs. Public services, dedicating it for its intended use, were held upon the ground September 4, 1854. The order of exercises was as follows:

1, Opening Hymn; 2, Prayer of Invocation, Rev. F. Holcomb, D. D.; 3, Hymn; 4, Scripture Reading, Rev. H. H. Reid; 5, Dedictory Prayer, Rev. Chauncey Goodrich; 6, Dedication Hymn; 7, Address, Honorable Samuel Foote, Geneva, N. Y.; 8, Closing Anthem; 9, Doxology; 10, Benediction, Rev. F. Holcomb, D. D.

The services were beautiful and appropriate. Mr. Foote said in part:

"Allow me to congratulate you on the acquisition and dedication of this beautiful and appropriate lot of land, as a public

cemetery. The measure furnishes high evidence of your liberality, taste and Christian character. I claim a right to share, and do share with you, the gratification which its accomplishment justly affords. Although I left this town many years since, yet here was I born and reared, and my father before me. The very farm which my grandfather purchased in a state of nature and cleared, and on which he raised a numerous family, is now owned and occupied by one of his lineal descendants. . . In yonder burying ground are the graves of my ancestors, of my relatives and of many of my playmates in childhood, while through your kind remembrance and friendly partiality, I, the youngest and almost the last of a large family am here, with marks of age upon me, to assist you in dedicating this spot of earth to the service of the dead and providing for their ashes a field of peace. . . Here, my friends, in this quiet and beautiful piece of ground, which we are this day dedicating as a cemetery, and which you will ornament with paths and trees, and shrubs and flowers, will be your graves. Your neighbors, townsmen, and sometimes strangers, will walk through this burial place, look at your graves, read the inscriptions on the monuments, think and speak of you, if they knew you in life, and if not, will inquire about you and learn who and what you were. . . O, my friends, let us try to live 'as we shall wish we had when we come to die,' that the memory of us may be sweet, and 'a savor of life unto life.' "

On October 9, 1889, more burial lots being needed, a piece of land was purchased on the opposite side of the highway, which has been graded and improved, and to-day the citizens of Watertown are justly proud of the beautiful, well-kept ground, "God's Acre," the last resting places of their beloved dead.

From September 4, 1854, to June 15, 1907, there have been 1,135 burials.

The present officers of the association are:

Trustees: Dr. Walter S. Munger, Chairman; Charles M. Noble, Alfred H. Scoville, Howard M. Hickox, Charles B. Mattoon, George F. Pritchard, George A. Harper, Buel Heminway, H. William Warner; Secretary and Treasurer, Howard M. Hickox; Sexton, Frank B. Hickox.

The association has a General Fund of \$9,500, and a Special Fund of \$2,500.



## **The Watertown Centennial.**

Until the year 1780 Westbury had remained a society of Waterbury. At that time it was incorporated as an independent town and named Watertown, the society of Northbury being included until 1795, but electing its own officers and representatives. It was then incorporated and named Plymouth. On June 19th, 1780, the first town meeting was held in Watertown. Phinehas Royce, moderator. The following officers were elected: Town clerk, Timothy Judd; selectmen, Thomas Fenn, Thomas Dutton, Stephen Matthews, Nathaniel Barnes, Jesse Curtiss. In 1880 William G. French, first selectman, found in a record book of 1780 an account of the organization of the town and in the February town meeting, Hon. L. W. Cutler and William G. French were appointed a committee to consider the matter of celebrating the centennial, and the following notice was placed on the public signpost and in the *Waterbury American*:

"Notice is hereby given that a meeting of all persons interested in the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of this town, will be held at the Town Hall on the fifteenth day of April, 1880, at 7:30 P. M., to devise a plan, if thought advisable, for proceeding in this matter, and to provide ways and means for carrying out plan proposed. A full attendance is requested. Any further action will depend upon the interest shown by the public at said meeting."

WM. G. FRENCH,

L. W. CUTLER,

*Committee.*

The meeting was well attended, much interest shown and the following programme arranged:

## WATERTOWN CENTENNIAL.

THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 1880.

The day will be ushered in by a salute of ten guns, and ringing of the bells, at five o'clock, a. m.

### MARSHAL'S ORDERS.

The Military and Fire Companies, and all others who are to take positions in the procession, will report to the Marshal on North Street, at 10 o'clock, sharp.

The First, Second and Third Divisions will form on North Street, the right resting on West Street.

The Fourth Division will form on East Street, the right near Mrs. Eli Curtis', and extending East.

At 10:15, His Excellency and Staff will be escorted to their positions in line. At 10:30, a salute of 21 guns in honor of the Governor.

At the third gun the column will move promptly without further orders.

The Assistant Marshals, having charge of divisions, will take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

The line of march will be through the principal streets, returning to near the place of formation, when it will be dismissed.

### ORDER OF PROCESSION.

Platoon of Police—Captain Scott.

Chief Marshal and Staff.

Thomaston Cornet Band.

Company G, Second Regiment, C. N. G.,—Captain Bannon.

Company A, Second Regiment, C. N. G.,—Captain Spencer.

Putnam Phalanx,—Major Brown.

His Excellency Governor Andrews, and President of the Day.

The Governor's Staff.

Watertown Centennial Cadets, 38 Boys,—Capt. B. Havens  
Heminway.

Orators of the Day, Clergy, and other distinguished guests.

### SECOND DIVISION.

Assistant Marshal Vorra.

Woodbury Band.

Centennial Cadets,—Captain Heminway.

Representatives of the Press and Hartford Glee Club.

Citizens on Horseback.

### THIRD DIVISION.

Assistant Marshals Wooster and Woodward.

Waterbury Band.

Phoenix Fire Company, No. 1, Waterbury.

### FOURTH DIVISION.

Assistant Marshals Munson and Peck.

Wolcott Drum Band.

Antiques.

Citizens of this and other towns in carriages.

WM. B. HOTCHKISS, *Chief Marshal*.

PROGRAMME.

At 12:30 p. m., Collation.

At 1:30 p. m., the Thomaston Band will escort the Governor and Speakers to the platform near the Congregational Church, when the assemblage will be called to order by Hon. L. W. Cutler, President of the Day.

1. Invocation by the Rev. James Stoddard.
2. Singing by the Watertown Choir.
3. Address by Hon. Wm. E. Curtiss, of New York.
4. Address by His Excellency, Governor Andrews.
5. Singing by the Hartford Glee Club.
6. Address by Hon. F. J. Kingsbury, of Waterbury.
7. Address by Rev. Dr. N. S. Richardson, of Bridgeport.
8. Singing by the Watertown Choir.
9. Address by Dr. W. T. Woodruff, of Thomaston.
10. Singing by the Hartford Glee Club.
11. Addresses by other gentlemen.
12. Singing by the whole assemblage, of the following hymn, led by the Watertown Choir, to the tune of

AULD LANG SYNE.

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
And never brought to mind?  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
And songs of Auld Lang Syne?  
For Auld Lang Syne we meet to-day,  
For Auld Lang Syne;  
To sing the songs our fathers sang,  
In days of Auld Lang Syne.

We've passed through many varied scenes  
Since youth's unclouded day,  
And friends and hopes and happy dreams  
Time's hand hath swept away;  
And voices that once joined with ours,  
In days of Auld Lang Syne,  
Are silent now, and blend no more  
In songs of Auld Lang Syne.

Here we have met, here we may part  
To meet on earth no more,  
And we may never sing again  
The cherished songs of yore.

The sacred songs our fathers sang,  
In days of Auld Lang Syne,  
We may not meet to sing again—  
The songs of Auld Lang Syne.

But when we've crossed the sea of life,  
And reached the heavenly shore,  
We'll sing the songs our fathers sing,  
Transcending those of yore.  
We'll meet to sing diviner strains  
Than those of Auld Lang Syne—  
Immortal songs of praise, unknown  
In days of Auld Lang Syne.

Benediction by the Rev. S. K. Smith.

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The Phoenix Fire Company will exhibit the working of their engine at some time during the day.

The Antiquities will be on exhibition at the Town Hall through the day.

Invited Guests are informed that they can obtain tickets to the collation by calling on C. T. Hickox or C. A. Warren, Secretaries.

Trains will leave Watertown for Waterbury at 4:30 and 5:30 p. m.

The day dawned brightly beautiful, and in the morning delightfully cool. The day was ushered in by a salute of ten guns at sunrise. Nearly every house was decorated with a profuse display of flags and bunting, and on every hand were to be seen evidences of the preparations made by the citizens to celebrate this anniversary. During the morning the ladies were out in force preparing a collation in a large tent on the village green. "This was an elegant affair and entitles the ladies to all praise."

The first special train arrived from Waterbury at 8:35 a. m. The engine was decorated with the national colors and festoons of evergreen and the name plate, "Wolcottville" bore the figures 1880 in green. There were six cars. On board were the two Waterbury military companies, Phoenix Fire Company, No. 1, the Waterbury City and the Thomaston cornet bands and the Wolcott Drum Corps. Another train

followed at ten o'clock bringing the Putnam Phalanx, of Hartford, and the South End Glee Club of Waterbury. Then followed another special train of eight cars, crowded with passengers. In the meantime additions to the throng came in four-horse wagons, double and single teams from the adjoining towns and it was estimated eight thousand people were in attendance.

The parade was large and imposing. The Putnam Phalanx in their picturesque continental uniforms attracted general attention and elicited rounds of applause all along the line. Captains Bannon and Spencer's commands marched finely. The Fire Companies never appeared to better advantage and the Centennial Cadets, a company of boys, in dark blue uniforms and red sashes, under command of Captain B. Havens Heminway and Lieutenant Charles Heminway were a striking feature of the procession. The antique part of the parade was a decidedly novel one, everything pertaining to it savored of "ye olden time," the figures "1780" were attached to nearly everything and the exhibition of antiques in the Town Hall, now the engine house, was very creditable. Roderick Atwood was the patriarch father. The cavalcade was preceded by a man seated astride a horse and surrounded by five barrels, two on each side and one across the pommel of the saddle. This representing the ride through Watertown, in 1799, of Noble Atwood, who, to decide a wager, accomplished this feat. There were old vehicles of every description filled with ladies and gentlemen in continental costumes. Nearly everything in this procession was one hundred years old. There was the centennial wagon loaned by Hon. Elisha Leavenworth and the old gig in which Dr. Elton long made his rounds to visit his patients on these hills and in the towns roundabout. The carriage containing Governor Andrews, Hon. William E. Curtiss, Hon. L. W. Cutler, President of the day, and Hon. F. J. Kingsbury, was drawn by four horses driven by Lyman Norton. The Governor and Staff and other visiting guests were

in carriages. While the procession was in motion a salute of twenty-one guns was fired in honor of Governor Andrews. Colonel William B. Hotchkiss was Chief Marshal and was efficiently aided by Rev. Charles Croft, Alanson Warren, Merritt Heminway, James Wooster, John Vorra, William Munson, Frank Peck, David Woodward and Henry Atwood. The procession was reviewed in front of the Warren house by Governor Andrews. Just after noon the collation was served and at 2 p. m. the exercises followed at the speakers' stand in front of the Congregational Church, beginning with prayer by Rev. James Stoddard, Rector of Christ Church. Hon. L. W. Cutler then remarked it had been intended to have a lengthy historical address but it was finally decided several short addresses would be more interesting, and introduced Hon. William E. Curtiss of New York.

#### JUDGE CURTISS' ADDRESS

In the brief observations I shall address to you on this interesting anniversary, I will confine myself to recalling the memory of those of my own profession who have heretofore dwelt in our midst. Others who address you will speak of many who are departed who have been engaged in different pursuits.

Eli Curtiss, who graduated in the class of 1777 at Yale college, and who lost an arm in the war of the Revolution, was the first member of the legal profession that settled in Watertown. Tradition speaks favorably of his courage and services as an officer of the Revolutionary army, of his merits as a lawyer, and the public positions which he held indicate his appreciation by his fellow-citizens. In the brief list of subscribers to Kirby's Law Reports, published at Litchfield in 1789, the first or among the first published in America, his name appears, also that of Samuel Southmayd, the father of Samuel W. Southmayd, the lawyer; also the name of Thomas Fenn, Esq., the ancestor of Amasa J. Parker, and other lawyers of eminence and sterling merit; and also the names of Daniel Potter, Esq., and David Smith, Esq. This subscription list both here and over the country is worthily represented to-day in the third and fourth generations of the subscribers. Hon. Eli Curtiss removed from Watertown and died in 1821. Samuel W. Southmayd was born in this town in September, 1773. He was the great grandson of the Rev. John Southmayd of Waterbury, who himself was the great grandson of Sir William Southmayd of

the county of Kent, England. He studied law at Litchfield, and was admitted to the bar in 1795. In 1809 he received the honorary degree of A. M. from Yale college. He early acquired the esteem and confidence of his townsmen, whom during his brief life he represented seventeen times in the Legislature. He soon rose to eminence in his profession. His law library, much of which came into my father's possession, contained most of the valuable English reports and treaties of his day, which, enriched by notes and addenda in his beautiful handwriting, indicate to this day how accomplished and learned he was as a lawyer. He died March 4, 1813. The anecdotes and traditions of his career have almost faded away, but his example as a patriotic citizen, a kind-hearted man, and a learned and honorable lawyer may exert an influence when his name even is forgotten. He was a bachelor, but died surrounded by the kindred of relatives awaiting the change, as the late Dr. Samuel P. Elton described it to me, with the calmness of a philosopher and the resignation of a Christian. Soon after the death of Mr. Southmayd a committee was appointed at a meeting of citizens to invite Mr. Holbrook Curtiss, then practicing law in Newtown, to remove to Watertown. He accepted his invitation and remained until his death in 1858. He was in 1813 twenty-six years of age, having graduated from Yale in 1807. During his long period of practice he had the respect and confidence of the community. He was many times a member of the Legislature, a judge of probate and also a judge of the county court. Cultivated and scholarly in his tastes, he possessed that rare gift of memory that apparently placed at his command for any occasion the Bible, Shakespeare, Hudibras, Blackstone's commentaries and Chitty's Pleadings, and a mass of tradition and anecdote. But his life is so fresh in your memories that it is unnecessary, perhaps not becoming, that I should say more of him, yet I cannot refrain from saying as his son, how grateful I shall ever be to his friends and neighbors, who in the weary hours of his declining life, watched over and cheered and comforted him, and whose kindness ever extended to me and mine, makes the very sight of these hills dear to me. I trust that when the final reveille sounds, we may look eastward at them with immortal vision and with consummated hopes.

#### HON. F. J. KINGSBURY'S ADDRESS.

The valley of the Naugatuck, like so many other important portions of the world from Ophir to Australia and California, owes its settlement to that natural passion of the human mind, the search for mineral wealth. As early as 1650 or thereabouts some hunters and explorers venturing over the mountains

from Farmington into this valley discovered here what they called a black lead mine. They should have gone back and started a joint stock corporation with a capital of twenty millions and perhaps an ex-member of Congress for a president, and then sold out their shares to their neighbors who were in a hurry to get rich. Well, they seem to have done what they could to have lived fully up to their rights and privileges; they did set up their stake and go back and file a claim for a circle with a radius of eight miles. They may have sold some shares to their neighbors, indeed it is more than likely that they did, and as we think of it, it grows upon us how like to these days were those, for so far as the record goes nobody ever succeeded in finding again the mine or even the stake, or much more than lead enough to blacken fingers. Indians were as plenty here then as they are in Arizona now, and sometimes quite as hostile, so that although some of these pioneers looked longingly over the mountains at the little strips of good land which they had seen lying along the river bottoms, they discreetly stayed where they were for a while longer. But about the year 1677, after King Philip was dead and the Indians who remained had learned to stand in wholesome awe of the white man's power, they returned once more to think of making a colony in this valley. The natural and easy entrance into the valley from Farmington seems to have led along the line of the Mad river to the point where the center of Waterbury now is, and the broad stretch of river that wanders there was doubtless an attraction. The present town of Waterbury, although perhaps I say it who shouldn't, is not a desirable tract of land for agricultural purposes. Great ribs of almost naked rock with intervals of sand and gravel form too large a portion of its surface for profitable farming. But the pioneers had learned that the Naugatuck river was liable to become impassable, by reason of great freshets, and it was not safe for this little colony, pushing itself into the wilderness, with uncertain savages still on every side, to cut itself off from its base of supplies and succor. While therefore it may seem strange and even stupid to have stopped just there when a little further on they might have found so much better soil, to them the choice doubtless seemed to lie between comparative safety with moderate success and a risk of property and life for somewhat greater gains. Who shall say that they were not wise? Then the appearance of the country was very different from what it is now. The question has been asked, Was the country mostly covered with wood at the time of settlement? I am inclined to think that there were beside the river bottoms large patches of upland which were not timbered, but were in a state to be cultivated without much



preliminary labor and expense of clearing, very different in short from the condition of northern Ohio when that country was settled about a hundred years later. I infer this from descriptions in ancient deeds, such expressions as "so far as the good land goeth," "thence to the wilderness," "meadow and plow land," "main," etc. Also from the absence of reference by record or tradition to "logging bees," and to the expense and trouble which heavy clearing involves. Yet I presume that on the uplands west of the Naugatuck there was still too great an amount of timber and brush to make it easy to appreciate the true nature of the soil, its richness and its adaptation for culture. This very township was famous for its enormous trees. Tradition tells of one of the early pioneers who having stripped the bark from a large elm to use for a bed found it so tightly curled about him in the morning that it came near proving a coffin. At any rate, for reasons which appeared to them sufficient it was not until the lapse of 40 years or more from the first settlement at Waterbury, say 1720, that attention was seriously turned to the good land lying about "Wooster Swamp" and "Scott's Mountain," where a little settlement known soon after as "The Village" was established. I am informed that these local names or some of them have wholly disappeared from use or even from tradition, but the name of "Wooster Swamp" frequently shortened to "Wooster" was applied to the northwest quarter of the town, and the other names are of frequent occurrence on the record. The Guernsey or Garnsey family apparently settled there some 20 years later. Where the name of Wooster came from I have not discovered, but Scott's mountain received its name from one Jonathan Scott, who was captured by the Indians in the Waterbury meadows in 1710, and after his return settled at this place.

We have again to note the resemblance between the men of that day and this, as we find on the record evidence of a genuine land speculative fever in connection with the discovery of these good Garnseytown lands. Roads were laid out on so magnificent a plan that they have not even yet been opened, and an acre of land here was valued as equal to five acres in the other unallotted lands. Afterwards there was a reaction in the market and the rate was  $2\frac{1}{2}$ . Here is one of the votes in regard to roads, November, 1722: "It was agreed by vote that in dividing of the sequestered lands at the northwest corner there shall be three 'tears' of Lotts, viz.—a highway near Woodbury of two rods wide, and then half a mile wide of land to be laid out in lots, and then a highway of Eight rods to run north and south—and then another 'tear' of a half mile wide and then another highway of eight rods and then

another 'tear' of lots a half mile wide, and then a highway on the east side eight rods, etc. The committee in laying out the lots to leave a four or six rods highway every half mile or thereabouts through the 'tears'—No lott to be divided."—(Bronson, p. 252.) The notoriety of the movement was sufficient to attract many settlers from other towns. Bronson says about one half were new inhabitants and among them were many of Watertown's most valuable citizens. The movement had a better basis than many speculations. The land was of the best, far superior to that in the older portions of the town, perhaps equal to any in the state. Enterprising and ambitious men appreciated their value. Good land in those days was wealth, and very soon the new settlement began to prosper. Then the older settlement seems to have grown rather jealous of the new. The young men were being drawn away by superior attractions. They took the young women with them. The young settlement threatened to overtop the old one. It was getting ambitious. It applied for special church privileges. It asked to be incorporated as a separate ecclesiastical society. All these movements the old town sturdily resisted. There is not wanting in the record some appearance of stumbling blocks deliberately put in the path of the new settlement. However, they persevered, and in 1738, after a struggle of a number of years, what had been known as Wooster swamp and Wooster and the village and "Up the River," became an incorporated ecclesiastical society, bounded on the east by the Naugatuck river and the west branch, under the name of "Westbury."

The new society continued to prosper, and in 1780 the town voted, in a spirit of wise liberality, to prefer a petition to the next General Assembly that the societies of Westbury and Northbury might be incorporated into a separate town and annexed to the county of Litchfield. This was done. Watertown was incorporated, and henceforth emancipated from all parental control, it was left to take care of itself. It showed itself entirely competent to do this and for the next 50 years seems to have gone straight onward in a course of prosperity. The lands were rich, fruitful and easily cultivated and in those days agriculture was the business of the state and good land was the symbol of wealth. All other occupations were subsidiary to the cultivation of the soil and only had existence as they were related to that.

By about 1810, the new town might fairly be said to have outstripped the old. Several enterprising merchants had established themselves here. Mr. Wait Smith, who was succeeded by his son, Gen. Gerritt Smith, Mr. Younglove Cutler, and the brothers John and Benjamin De Forest were among

the leading merchants whose enterprise materially aided in building up the young town. They received the produce of the farmers and thereby stimulated production and introduced various new branches of industry. Cheese and butter making were largely entered into; the raising of stock also and the packing of beef and pork. From 1810 to 1830, Watertown as a commercial center was a place of more importance than Waterbury, and there are many people still living who well remember when Waterbury people came to Watertown to do their shopping, much as Watertown goes to Waterbury now.

Early in the century Gen. David Humphreys, a native of Derby, a man of genius, a soldier of the Revolution, who had been an aide of Washington, became the representative of this government at the court of Spain. He there conceived the idea of importing into this country the fine woolled Spanish merino sheep. He embarked his own fortune in the enterprise. To forward his plans he built a factory for the manufacture of fine wool goods at Rimmon Falls, afterwards known as Humphreysville and now Seymour, but which should have retained the name of its founder. He was not pecuniarily successful, nevertheless the country owes him a debt of gratitude, and the enterprising business men and farmers of Watertown were among the first to engage enthusiastically in his plans. The merino sheep were brought and bred here, and to this day the name of Watertown and the flock of Stephen Atwood is celebrated wherever merino sheep are known.

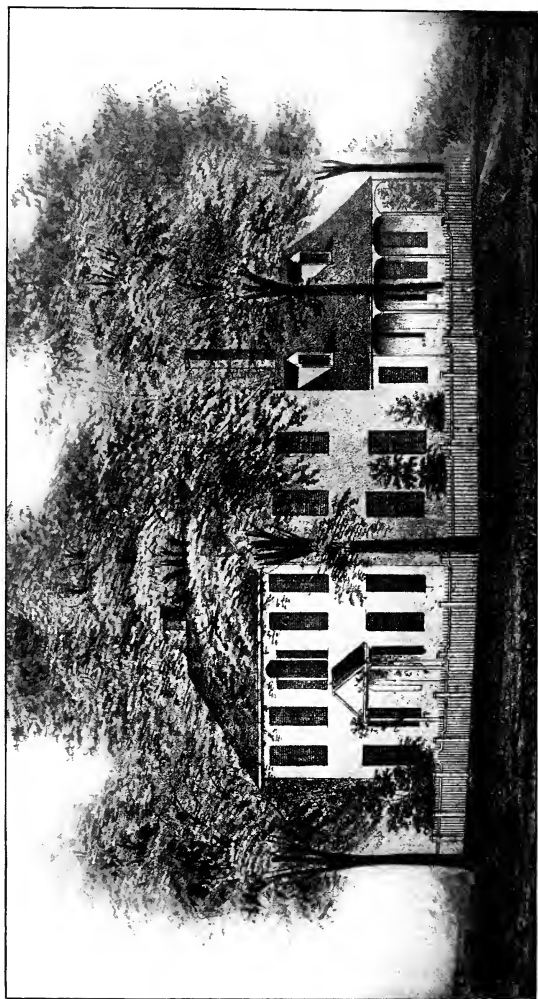
A gentleman who has made agriculture and fine cattle a study, and who has travelled all over the world, once told me that he had seen more fine teams of working oxen in the streets of Watertown than he had ever seen in any other place in all his travels. These, of course, were the famous "Connecticut Reds," of which Watertown may be said to have been the birthplace, and in the breeding of which Mr. Jacob Blakeslee and others have borne a conspicuous part.

I have been anxious to present some personal sketches of the men who were most active during this period in building up the young town. I have only been able to get two or three, but perhaps others may be added later. Among the business men of the town, Younglove Cutler was one of the first to open a store in the settlement. Mr. Cutler was born in Killingly, Conn., in 1750. Having a stepmother, he was induced at the age of ten years to pack all his possessions in a handkerchief and without one cent in his pocket, to strike out and seek his fortune, adopting as his motto, "Go West, young man," selecting Westbury as his future home. He worked about for the farmers for a while as he could find employment, but I soon hear

of him trading in a small way as a peddler. Next opening a small store in the south part of the house now owned by Dr. John DeForest where he traded evenings and worked out through the day, which house must have been built not far from 1783, since that is the year in which he bought the land on which the house stands. The large show windows can now be seen under the verandah. Afterwards he built a wood store where he traded for many years. The building was afterward removed and the brick store built on its site by Mr. Benjamin DeForest. He became a large land owner and stock breeder, and was particularly interested in the Spanish merino sheep, procuring his flock from Gen. Humphrey, whose importations dates 1802. He sold one ewe for \$1,000 and her unborn lamb for \$500 more. Mr. Cutler died in 1816.

John H. and Benjamin De Forest, brothers and natives of Huntington, Conn., came to Watertown and entered into mercantile business in 1803, first in a small way in the northeast corner room of the house now occupied by B. C. Atwood, but soon moved to the store owned and formerly occupied by Mr. Cutler, which stood on the ground where the brick store now stands, occupied by Myron McNeil. There they successfully pursued the business of country merchants till 1817 when the partnership was dissolved. The business in those days was principally a barter trade; but little money was in circulation. No cash was paid out directly for produce; contracts were made with a few of the larger farmers to bring in their pork, butter, cheese and grain which were the principal products of the farm, and receive on the first day of April in each year one-quarter to one-third cash, the remainder to be taken in "store pay." The pork, butter, cheese and grain were all sent by teams to New Haven. No Waterbury market in those days. During the time of their partnership the older brother John went several voyages to sea as supercargo and part owner. On one of these voyages he visited Spain and brought away a lot of merino sheep, among the earliest of the kind ever introduced into this country, which proved both profitable to the owners and of immense value to the farming interests of the United States. A while after the introduction of these sheep the speculation in them ran so high that single merino bucks and ewes were sold for \$1,500 and \$1,600 each. On another voyage during the war of 1812 and while England and France were also at war he sailed for France with a cargo of codfish. Had they arrived safely the vessel would have netted a large profit to her owners, but just as they sighted port the vessel was cut out by a British privateer, the vessel and cargo confiscated and the crew thrust into the celebrated Dartmoor prison where they were confined several





RESIDENCE OF DR. JOHN DEFORREST. NOW OWNED BY DR. WALTER S. MUNGER.

months. After a while Mr. De Forest, who was noted as an adept with the pen, wrote a very plausible letter to the British admiralty and so "pulled the wool" over the eyes of the officers as to his intentions and destination that they liberated him and the crew. During his residence in Watertown John H. was much interested in politics and civil affairs. He was the principal trying justice for many years and represented the town in the State Legislature for five sessions from 1809 to 1815. About the year 1819 John H. went to Humphreysville (now Seymour) and purchased the principal water privilege there and the old mill foundry, built and occupied by Geo. Humphrey as a woolen factory, converted it into a cotton mill where he successfully pursued the business of cotton manufacture till his death in 1839. After the dissolution of partnership in 1817, Benjamin continued the business till 1825 when he gave it up to Eli Curtiss who had been his clerk. During this time while on a trip to New York to purchase goods (there being no drummers in those days) he saw a bundle of palm leaf lying on the wharf. The thought occurred to him that a hat might be made of it similar to the Panama. He purchased a bundle of palm leaf and also a Panama hat and brought them home. He offered a prize of \$50 to any one who would find out how to braid them. Mr. Anson Beecher of Northfield, and lately of Westville took the prize. He came to Mr. De Forest's and for weeks instructed large numbers of women and girls in the art of braiding. The manufacture progressed slowly for want of material. So difficult was it to obtain the plant in New York, that an agent was finally sent to the West Indies to procure it, and to arrange for a future supply. The manufacture became a success, and large numbers of women and girls in this and the neighboring towns made it their principal business, much to their profit. This branch of manufacture, begun here in Watertown in this small way, is now extensively prosecuted by machinery in various parts of the country, and a hat that once cost \$2 or \$3 is now sold for 50 or 60 cents. A short time before Mr. De Forest left the mercantile business he united with Aaron Benedict and others in forming a company for the manufacture of gilt buttons, with a capital of \$6,500, which was the commencement of the Benedict & Burnham Manufacturing company of Waterbury. Mr. De Forest became salesman of the new company—principally in New York and Boston—till 1837, when he retired in consequence of ill health, and died in 1859.

During the period covered by the sketches just given the town had grown in wealth and refinement. Elegance and even luxury, as luxury was then counted, was found among its inhabitants. The people were able to give their sons and

daughters all the advantages of education which the country afforded, and many young men went forth from the old town who made names for themselves in all parts of the country. Doubtless they will be spoken of by others—a bare list of their names would be too long to insert here. But some of them we are glad to see back with us again to-day.

So long as agriculture was the principal interest of the State the young town steadily gained on the old one in wealth, enterprise and importance. For some reason which I have not had time to investigate the old town seems to have held its own in population somewhat remarkably, perhaps it had that prolific gift for which poverty is proverbial.

During the twenty years from 1815 to 1835, Connecticut passed from an agricultural to a manufacturing State. The opening of the wheat lands of the west, and a variety of other causes which I have not time to enumerate wrought this change; and the inhabitants of the old town of Waterbury, who had been compelled by the poverty of their soil to exercise their wits in order to live, now found use for them in a profitable direction. Very soon the tide was turned and the ambitious young men of Watertown began to look to the lower valley as a place to exercise their gifts. The current of emigration was reversed and the De Forests, Eltons, Buckinghams, Merri-mans and many others now brought their capital and enterprise back to the older town. There the farmers soon began to find a market for their produce and a place of investment for their surplus gains. There their sons became captains of industry, and where the sons went there went the daughters also. The later history of the town and its progress in many directions I leave to other hands. My endeavor ends here. Thus the two towns have grown again to be as one people, one in history, one in race, one in interest, one in thought. As they were at the first so shall they remain—mother and daughter to the last.

Rev. Dr. Richardson of Bridgeport was the next speaker, his remarks being of a reminiscent character.

#### REV. DR. RICHARDSON'S ADDRESS.

We are told that, in the olden time, it was the custom at great festivals and celebrations, at the beginning to set forth pure wine and when men had well drunk, then that which was worse. After what we have heard this afternoon, I am sure you will say that that custom has been handed down to the present day. You have well drunk of the good wine, I can only offer you that which is worse. But such as I have give I you.



It is 35 years next Tuesday since I left Watertown as a citizen and resident. Thirty years are said to include a generation. Of course nearly all who were in the meridian of life thirty-five years ago are gone. The mass of those to whom I speak are strangers to me. And yet it does not seem so to me. In coming back to Watertown I feel as if I were coming home. I lived in Watertown seven years. But those seven years made a lasting impression on me. The parish church here was my first parish, and a first parish is like "a first love," there is no other love like it. At any rate it used to be so, when it was said "matches were made in Heaven." Where some of them are made now-a-days is quite another question. But here I came in 1838 with my youthful bride and was welcomed to the home of my predecessor, the Rev. Dr. Holcomb. Those days return to me now with fresh recollections of the warm-hearted, genial sympathies of her who presided over that household, and whose heart has never grown old. Such sun-beams in homes and parishes and neighborhoods are among Heaven's best boons. They cast the radiance of beauty and attractiveness over our whole lives and over our holy religion. Nearly all who were there then, and whom I knew and loved, and on whom I leaned, are gone. My predecessor is gone. He was a good man, wise, discerning, earnest, faithful and true. The church at large estimated and honored him. He labored here as Christ's minister 28 years, and he lived to see the seed which he had planted spring up and bear abundant fruit. His prayers and efforts were not in vain. We honor his memory to-day. Few of the laymen of the parish who were here then are here now. I may not particularize, but their names are almost upon my lips. There is one name, however, which I may mention, Holbrook Curtiss, a man of rare worth, of true nobility, of strong character, of ripe culture; a man whose modesty and shrinking retirement, and these alone, kept him from shining in public life, where his talents fitted him to adorn almost any station. In calling upon him at his office once, I found him thoroughly absorbed in a volume which he was devouring. It was a volume of the French classics in the French language, full of sentiment, and yet he never intimated that he was a French scholar. The scenes of my ministry here of seven years return vividly to-day. Scenes of domestic joy, and of domestic disappointment and grief; scenes of an overcoming faith, and a calm and serene repose, like the closing beauty and glory of an autumnal day. And that half score of aged venerable women whom I found here, mothers in Israel, I thought them then, a noble band. Certain it is that their children and grand-children have done much to make Watertown and Waterbury, yes and Bridgeport,

what they are to-day. These were some of my experiences here as a minister of the Gospel of Christ. Ah, is Christianity a failure? as some brazen faced, brazen-throated scoffers are telling us in these days, and telling the young men and young women in our cities and factories and work-shops! Christianity a failure! Oh, no! It is a grand, glorious reality and power. But its victories are not won on tented fields; they are victories of faith and love.

Perhaps I may be pardoned, if I allude for a moment, to one of quite another character. It was the settled policy of our Colonial forefathers to cultivate in the colony a military spirit, at least to see to it that every man should be trained to the use of fire-arms. Every town had its "training-day" twice a year, and its "general training" once a year. That custom was handed down to their descendants, and the militia system is a part of our continental system. Not long after I came to Watertown I received a commission from Col. Shelton as chaplain of the 12th Regiment of Connecticut militia. A regimental parade was on hand and I was expected to appear "armed and equipped for military duty." I had never dreamed of being a soldier, especially such a sort of soldier, and was not well posted in military proprieties, and so I applied to my valued and I may almost say my life-long friend, General Heminway, for the use of his beautiful parade horse and his trappings. I have an indistinct recollection that the general intimated that those accoutrements belonged to the staff officers of a general, not a colonel. However, that point was waived, and I was escorted with military "pomp of circumstance" to the parade ground, down on the meadows yonder. The colonel I have no doubt was somewhat surprised and amused at seeing his chaplain appear in the plight of a general's staff officer, but he was a gentleman as well as soldier and said not a word. The parade exercises were imposing; the militia needed no apology; and the militia of Connecticut have proved, on many a well contested field since that they can be relied on and are fully equal to any occasion.

I know very well that these reminiscences in which I have indulged are trifles on such an occasion as this. It was, I think, in 1742 that the first service of the Episcopal church of any kind was ever held in Westbury, now known as Watertown. This was 138 years ago. It was a marriage service. The names of all the parties concerned are significant. It was the marriage of William Scoville to Elizabeth Brown, daughter of James Brown, who, a layman, was so strong a churchman in these ante-revolutionary days that they gave him the name of Bishop Brown. The place where the marriage was solemnized was a new barn, doubtless adorned and deco-

rated with nature's robes of beauty, wreaths and festoons. It was on what was long known as "the Buckingham place." The officiating clergyman on that occasion was the Rev. Dr. Samuel Johnson, then rector of Christ church, Stratford, and afterwards president of King's college, now Columbia college, in the city of New York. Dr. Johnson was a great man, a man of profound learning. He was the only man in the Connecticut colony capable of writing the laws of Yale college in the pure and elegant Latin in which they appeared,—so Prof. Kingsley of Yale college once told me. Dr. Johnson was the intimate friend, and as long as they both lived the constant correspondent, of the distinguished Bishop Berkeley, whose name is embalmed in the memories of all time scholars. It was he who said:

"Westward the course of empire takes its way;  
The four first acts, already past:  
A fifth shall close the drama with the day;  
Time's noblest offspring is the last."

The name of Dr. Johnson thus becomes associated with the early history of the families, who have since been identified with the growth and prosperity of Watertown and Waterbury. I hold in my hand a manuscript letter of Dr. Johnson's, to Mr. Samuel Brown of Waterbury, on one of the stirring questions of those days. It was on the doctrine of absolute predestination. It was dated January 1, 1737, 143 years ago.

I have thought proper in speaking this afternoon to limit myself to a particular field. I would gladly have taken a wider range. There are other Watertown men who are equally identified with the progress and prosperity of the town. There are, too, historic names of men who were born here, who have achieved a national reputation, like John Trumbull, the author of "McFingal." And there was his father, the Rev. John Trumbull, the first Congregational minister in Watertown. And there was Mrs. Trumbull, the mother of the poet, a rare woman, from whom the son inherited not a little of his genius and character. That was a day of maternal influence, where lies the true power and glory of woman. That is woman's legitimate throne, a nobler elevation than the throne of the Cæsars. Around names like these I leave to others to weave garlands worthy of their fame and growth. I do not speak of the past history of this beautiful town, nor of its future prospects, nor of the conditions of its prosperity. I invoke God's best benedictions upon you all and upon all those who shall come after you.

Dr. W. T. Woodruff, of Thomaston, followed Dr.

Richardson, and spoke without notes. A summary of his remarks are appended:

DR. WILLIAM T. WOODRUFF'S ADDRESS

I am reminded of the motto over the study door of Cotton Mather, "Be short." I shall abide by the motto. Northbury the daughter, the oldest daughter of Westbury, comes to you with her filial congratulations to-day. We of Northbury have been keeping house for ourselves more than four score years. It must be admitted we have done it largely on *tick*, and we may continue to *tick* still longer, yet we do not propose to repudiate our obligations, or bring disgrace upon the family name. I accept these memorial gatherings as I do the local histories now so common, as evidence that the memory of the fathers is not to be forgotten and that the facts now passing into dim obscurity may not be entirely lost in oblivion. The first settlers came to what was afterwards called Northbury nearly one hundred and fifty years ago. Tradition says that the first explorers reported that it might sustain ten or at the outside fifteen families. At that time Waterbury was bounded north on the wilderness. The place selected was on the Naugatuck river, where the pre-historic floods had pushed back the hills and left an alluvial deposit fit for cultivation. North and south it was shut in by rocky cliffs which abutted sharply on the river, and rendered egress impossible except inland over the hills. So serious was this felt to be, that a petition was presented to the town of Waterbury asking for winter privileges. In other words to be relieved from paying a ministerial tax in Waterbury and that they might be permitted during certain months to sustain the Gospel at home. To sustain that petition it was stated that on going to Waterbury they were compelled to cross the Naugatuck nine times. The first settlers were a sturdy and independent race, their clothing and food being produced largely from the farms. Here dwelt the Cooks, the Farrels, the Blakeslees and the Harrises. Their Christian names would sound oddly to-day. There was Asaph and Ambrose, Barnabas and Benoni, Emas and Ezekiel, and on the other side Patience and Prudence and Comfort and Submit. That last name never was popular and has now, I think, become obsolete. The living was plain and frugal, but healthful and abundant. Let me imperfectly reproduce a dinner of the olden times, that boiled dinner, that immaculate perfection of all cooking. The sun has touched the meridian, and the noon mark on the window-sill has told to the wife that the hour of the noonday meal has come, and will allow neither delay or lack of abundance. The dinner horn sends its welcome notes over hill and valley calling the farmer and

hired men and boys. Washing in a stone at the door which has a natural cavity they enter the house. The center of the table is graced with a pewter platter filled with meat and vegetables. Grace is reverently said, somewhat too long for the exacting appetites of the young folks. This is followed by that golden glory, a boiled Indian pudding, and this was supplemented by that New England nectar, cider. Neither the dyspepsia nor sick headache lurked around that board. It made blood and bone and muscle by which they drove out the wild beasts and Indians and sent defiance to King George. Connecticut has produced one poet who has sung the virtues of hasty pudding. Would that Watertown could raise up another Trumbull to chant the glories of potluck. Here let me correct a popular fallacy, that the heart is the seat of courage and bravery. Nothing could be no more fallacious. The stomach is the source of the heroic emotions and the throne of the sympathies. Putnam with his strong sense understood it when on this, the anniversary of Bunker Hill, he ordered his men to fire at the waistbands. No man has lived without a stomach, many a man without a heart or the evidence of it. Soon after the Revolution two retired army officers settled in Woodbury, Gen. David Smith and Major Joseph A. Wright. They in conjunction with Rev. S. Waterman, the third clergyman, had a very elevating influence in moulding the character of the place. A son of Gen. Smith, Junius Smith, afterwards became a merchant in London, and was the first projector of ocean steam navigation. The project was combatted by Dr. Lardner and others, but after many delays and difficulties a company was formed, a vessel constructed and Mr. Smith made the first voyage ever made across the ocean exclusively under steam. About the year 1793 a young man from Windsor who had obtained some knowledge of clockmaking came to Northbury carrying his goods and chattels in a cotton bundle. Stalwart in frame, taciturn by habit and excitable in temperament, Eli Terry began in a small way and with very imperfect machinery the making of clocks. Feeling the necessity of understanding the keeping of time by scientific methods he studied astronomy and became a profound scholar in the science. What has been the success of this enterprise everybody knows. To-day the clocks made under the patents of Eli Terry keep time under almost every degree of latitude, and nations most remote, like China and Japan, are among the great markets of the trade. Another name world wide in its reputation, and whose imprint was a sure guarantee of the reliability of the clock, was a poor Wolcott boy, beginning life with his bare hands, and bred a carpenter by trade. Seth Thomas, invincible in will and purpose, a man of few words,

kindly in his disposition, charitable to the needy, in justice and equity he was the Aristides of his calling. His keen sense of right made him despise all the subterfuges of craft and all the devices of dishonesty. Being inquired of in court if he knew that he was under oath, he replied, "I am always under oath." Character in a word. The town named after him is a fitting memorial of such a life. To these two men, Messrs. Terry and Thomas, old Northbury as it was, Plymouth and Thomaston as they now are, owe a debt of gratitude for the prosperity and thrift for which they are distinguished.

Governor Andrews, who was present with his wife and daughter, was next introduced and arose amid enthusiastic applause. He had no written address, but spoke substantially as follows:

#### GOV. CHARLES ANDREWS'S ADDRESS

When I was asked to make a speech this afternoon it was stipulated that I should not be called until all the family speeches were made. I wish to say in behalf of those of us who do not live in Watertown that we think you have done a good deal of bragging to-day. (Laughter.) But when it comes to centennial anniversaries in our towns we will beat you at your own game. (Renewed laughter.) Seriously speaking it is no light thing to greet the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of a place. Think what was going on in 1780—war with Great Britain, Jonathan Trumbull governor, Connecticut a struggling undeveloped colony. That summer Washington journeyed from his head-quarters to Hartford to meet Rochambeau and others, and to plan that campaign which ended in the surrender of Yorktown. It was no light thing to form a colony in those troubled days. But the men of the place were far-seeing, they felt that municipal town meetings were the primaries of political science, and that within them liberty grew and permeated all the people. It is local independence which makes a nation independent and strong, and in those local gatherings the roots of liberty struck down into deep and permanent soil. If it had not been for the towns of New England there would never have been any Declaration of Independence, nor any Revolutionary war. (Applause.) So when the little parish of Waterbury became large enough to be clothed with the panoply of municipality the State clothed it. Nowhere in the world have towns the independence they have in this State. People came and planted settlements at Wethersfield and Hartford and Windsor and elsewhere, and were subject to no one. They came together and formed a colony, and so are the nearest, under the sun, to true de-

mocracy. Every man was interested in good and safe government. From such seed grew the Revolution, and our national government, which must continue to grow for all time. I do not intend to make a speech on this subject now, but hope in the future to develop the idea more fully. The governor closed with words of congratulation to the people of Watertown.

Mr. Cutler next introduced Mr. Wm. E. Curtiss, Jr., referring to him as a "chip of the old block." His appearance was greeted with applause. He began by remarking that he found himself in a melancholy position, as it was announced by the president of the day that there would be no more set family speeches. He had expected to give some reminiscences of his great-grandfather, Rev. Dr. James Scoville, but Dr. Richardson had anticipated him, and therefore nothing remained but to allow his speech to remain undisturbed in his pocket. He said he had noticed many of his old schoolmates in the assemblage before him, but in many instances saw none of the olive branches which are expected to be seen after a youth has reached manhood. (Laughter.) He concluded by expressing the hope that those who had gone forth from Watertown to seek fame and fortune in other states, might come back to the old town in their declining years and depart their lives in peace and happiness. Rev. James Stoddard next read a few selections of much interest from some reminiscences written by Mrs. Frederick Holcomb, prefacing them with the remark that there was no person in Watertown who was dearer and nearer to the hearts of the townspeople than she. At 4:15 the exercises closed with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" by the choir and audience, and the benediction was pronounced by Rev. S. K. Smith.

Among the prominent gentlemen present were: Nathaniel Wheeler of Bridgeport; Truman A. Warren of New Haven; Judge John A. Davis of New York; Hon. Lyman W. Coe of Wolcottville; Samuel Judd of Minnesota; H. A. Botsford of Hartford; and Horatio Benton of Litchfield. Many of the residences were profusely decorated with flags and bunting. The Warren house was a popular resort during the day. Everything passed off in the best possible manner. The citizens of Watertown and the committee of arrangements may feel satisfied at the result attending their efforts to make the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of their town a brilliant and interesting one.

## **The Reunion at Watertown of the 19th C. V.**

**July 7, 1875.**

**W**EDNESDAY, citizens of Watertown were given an opportunity to participate in the first soldiers' reunion ever held in their pleasant village. Most royally did they do the honors of the occasion, and the veterans of the old 19th C. V., afterward the 2d Heavy Artillery, have no cause to regret that they voted to hold the tenth annual reunion in the extreme southeast corner of Litchfield county.

Though the clouds looked slightly moist during the early morning hours, the day proved to be as fine as could be wished. The people of Watertown and the adjoining towns had turned out almost en masse, judging from the multitude present, to take part in the festivities. The special train, which arrived from Waterbury about 11 o'clock, had on board some fifty members of the regiment, and a number of ladies, two passenger cars being well filled.

At the depot they were met by the committee of reception and the Terryville cornet band, 26 pieces, under the leadership of Frank Thomas. After forming in line, the Thomaston band, headed by Chief Marshal John Heminway and his assistants, mounted, escorted the "vets" to the green in front of the Congregational church. The members then filed into the Town Hall to register with the secretary of the regimental association, Lieut. D. C. Kilbourn.

In the meantime other veterans and their families continued to arrive from different parts of the county. Those from the vicinity of Litchfield were accompanied by the Wolcottville cornet band.

A bountiful collation was served in a tent. The tables presented a beautiful appearance, and the veterans were enthusiastic in their praises of the ladies who had provided so abundantly.

The square surrounding the tent was literally crowded with people, handsome turnouts, and vehicles of every description. After dinner there was music by the Wolcottville and Thomaston bands, and both acquitted themselves splendidly. Between 2 and 3 o'clock the regiment reassem-



bled beneath the pleasant shade of the trees in front of the Congregational church. After music by the Terryville band, and prayer by Rev. L. Munger, the business meeting was called to order by the president of the regimental association, W. E. Disbrow, a gentleman well fitted for the position. The genial secretary, Lieut. D. C. Kilbourn, then read his report, and also the treasurer's report, which showed a balance of \$8.63 in the treasury. A letter received from the citizens of New Hartford, extending an invitation that the reunion next year be held in that place, was read, and it was voted that the invitation be accepted. The reading of letters from absent members, namely, Swift B. Smith, Eli Sperry, Robert Irwin, Geo. S. Williams and E. T. Carrington, created considerable merriment, some of them being written in a facetious vein. Three cheers were given for the absent ones, after which was sung the following song, composed for the occasion by S. N. Griswold of Co. A, and sung to the air of "Hold the Fort:"

Comrades can you still remember  
How in sixty-two,  
In Camp Dutton, we were gathered  
And first wore the blue.  
Chorus—Raise on high the starry banner,  
We'll defend it still;  
By the Ballot and the Bullet,  
In our might we will.

Rebel flags were floating proudly  
On our land and sea,  
When the sons of Litchfield County  
Joined, our flag to free.

Gathered now in glad reunion,  
Our sad hearts recall  
Those who on the field of battle,  
By our side did fall.

Time and sword have thinned our numbers,  
Yet the fallen brave  
Never more shall be forgotten,  
While our flag shall wave.

Heaven shall shed its choicest blessings  
On the patriot's grave;  
God preserve the flag and nation,  
They have died to save.

Hail Columbia! Let the echoes  
Ring from shore to shore.  
Life to Union! Death to Treason!  
Shout it evermore.

The election of officers resulted as follows:

President—A. P. Kirkham of Derby.

Vice President—J. N. Snowden of New Haven.

Secretary—D. C. Kilbourn of Litchfield.

Treasurer—C. W. Hinsdale of Litchfield.

Executive Committee—P. E. Chapin, H. C. Merrill, A. F. Lane, Henry Jones, Martin Wilcox, R. R. Smith and Carlton Seymour.

The historian's report showed that eight members had died during the past year, as follows: Capt. M. H. Sanford, Lieut. John M. Gregory, Lina Hotchkiss, Elbert B. Rowe, James B. Parks, Patrick Delaney, James Jukes and John L. Strickland. Allusion was made to Col. McKenzie, now a general in the regular army, who is taking an active part in the Sioux campaign, and some of his exploits were cited. All the company historians were reappointed with the exception of Horace Sanford of Co. H, he being newly elected.

Among the "lost children" who registered was Archie Hurd, Jr., of the 29th regiment, the first colored man to enlist in Connecticut.

Address of welcome delivered by Judge Wm. E. Curtiss of New York, and the response by Colonel Smith of Woodbury:

#### JUDGE WILLIAM E. CURTISS' ADDRESS OF WELCOME

Officers and soldiers of the Second Connecticut Heavy Artillery: I feel myself honored in being called upon by my fellow-townsmen, to extend a welcome to you and your wives, and your children, and your brother volunteers on this interesting occasion. We offer a welcome, with gratitude in our hearts, to the soldiers that in the hour of danger bravely performed their duty, and who, when peace came, made themselves esteemed and respected as most worthy citizens.

It is fourteen years since I here said the words of parting to some of you, then bouyant with youth, and hope, and patriotic devotion. We were proud of our mountain county regiment, and amid cheers and festivities it passed to the field; but though there were hearts that were wrung, and partings that were final, and seats by the familiar hearthstones that were never to be again filled, all felt that the preservation of

the country was a sacred duty, to be accomplished at any sacrifice. As the months rolled on, we watched the bloody trail from the dark hour at Cold Harbor, that robbed of life your brave Col. Kellogg and so many of his officers and men, through the victories of Winchester, Fisher's Hill and Cedar Creek, back to the storming of the lines at Petersburg, and saw no other regiment in advance of you, enter that long fought for city.

We were justified in our pride. Men are apt to point with satisfaction to events in the obscurity of the past. Almost in sight was born and bred Trumbull, the poet of the Revolution, and here he wrote the poem so full of humor and of Revolutionary patriotism, that cheered men's hearts in his day, and went through many editions in this and the Old World. A generation that has gone told us of a levy in their time of all men between sixteen and sixty years of age. We see lingering an occasional soldier of the war of 1812, but those that are here to-day, or that are about here, are so vigorous and active that the less we say about their old age and their infirmities the better.

Yet, notwithstanding all the drapery and the sunset gilding of the past, history can point to no acts of nobler courage, to no examples of more devoted, self-sacrificing and lofty patriotism, than what we have seen with our own eyes, and heard with our own ears.

There is one passed away, with whom I studied my profession and who would have gladly joined in this welcome. His address on the presentation of your colors, breathes with the inspiration of his lofty, noble soul and far-reaching wisdom. William Curtis Noyes, to whom I refer, was the worthy husband of the patriotic lady, who presented you the stand of colors for the regiment, herself a descendant of one who, in the old time, honored our county, both as a soldier and in the national councils. Though since that day so many years have sped, and so much of sorrow and bereavement has come, she has not forgotten the courage and the sufferings of the brave soldiers, over whom they waved during those years of struggle and of triumph. I would attempt to say some words in her behalf, but I know that no language of mine would be so grateful to you, as her words in this note, written to me in reference to this occasion, and for the trespass of reading which thus publicly, I trust I may be pardoned. She writes "that any words of encouragement you may be willing to use in my behalf, to the survivors of the brave 19th Connecticut, now merged in the 2d Heavy Artillery, will be exceedingly gratifying to me." "I retain the strongest possible

interest in the regiment, and owing to your long, consistent and continued attachment to my husband, I feel as if no one could express his sentiments more suitably or happily than yourself."

My brave friends, I wish I had the ability and the eloquence to express his sentences—to tell you how he honored the elevated standard of principles and discipline and conduct that you placed before you, and sought to be guided by; how his prayers went up to Heaven, that your heads might be covered in the hour of battle, and that success might attend your cause; how his heart filled with gratitude for your manly courage and unselfish patriotism; how his hand and his heart were ever open and ready to minister to the wounded and the bereaved. Some other tongue than mine can better do justice to all this.

We have not met to-day to recount the story of our losses, or to renew our griefs. The army rolls that show the gathering on the Litchfield hill on the 13th of September, 1862, of eight hundred and fifty young men, the sons of our friends and neighbors, of whom on the 7th of July, 1865, only one hundred and eighty-three remained to be mustered out, are a record that will speak for all time. These sad sacrifices are not without their compensation. We have the constitution and the government preserved, under which we were born, and have lived and prospered and enjoyed the protection of our personal rights and our property, the administration of justice, public schools and liberty of speech and conscience, all which we trust to preserve unimpaired, and transmit to the generations yet to come. We have a country overflowing with the products of its teeming soil, over which health and peace are smiling, and where hunger and want scarcely cross a threshold. We have a great and united nation rapidly growing in numbers and in strength, the heavy burden of its debts diminishing, and with the bow of promise set in the heavens, proclaiming that the time will come when neither the pension of the wounded soldier, nor the earnings of toil, nor the pecuniary obligations incurred in business transactions, shall be paid by the tender of an unfulfilled promise to pay.

For all these blessings that we have, and that are to come, should we not feel grateful to those who shouldered the musket to protect them in the season of peril?

It is with such sentiments of appreciation and gratitude for your acts and with heartfelt respect and sympathy for you personally, we give you our most cordial and most hearty welcome.

## COL. SMITH'S RESPONSE

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen and Comrades of the 2d Connecticut Heavy Artillery: I am requested, in behalf of the regiment, to return thanks to you, Mr. President, representing the people of Watertown, and to yourself, Sir (to Judge Curtiss), for the cordial and hospitable welcome you have made ready for us, and the eloquent terms in which you have been pleased to greet us. I know I express the feeling of each comrade here present, when, in their name, I assure you of their grateful appreciation, their sincere thanks.

And sir, in your address of welcome, you have afforded us most sincere pleasure by reading that communication from the beautiful and patriotic lady who gave to us our unequalled flags. The assurance thus afforded, that she had not forgotten those to whom she entrusted them, affords a thrill of pleasure to all such present at their reception, as are still living to remember their donor. Permit me, in my comrades' names, to say, that since that day she has always been, is now, and, so long as any one of us shall live, will always be honored and remembered with grateful reverence. Tell her, sir, from us, that these flags, by her entrusted to our keeping, have been faithfully guarded; that while many have died beneath their folds, not one has dishonored them; and further, sir, tell her, that while the kind Providence that has hitherto spared us, shall suffer us to remain, we shall not cease to pray that her lovely and unselfish life may be long spared, to bless others, as she has honored us.

You have spoken, sir, of that day at Camp Dutton when this regiment marched forth to duty in the field. We call it still the regiment, but, sir, the battalion is elsewhere.

"On Fame's eternal camping ground  
Their silent tents are spread,  
And Glory guards with ceaseless round  
The bivouac of our dead."

*There*, the regiment musters on this anniversary. *Here*, is but a detachment detailed for duty for awhile, till the grim orderly, Death, shall summon us to rejoin them. Each year must henceforth witness a diminution in our ranks, until at last there will remain a few palsied old men, and then none. But in all this melancholy road, till the closing scene, there will be no more pleasant days than such as are afforded by a welcome like the present. We may seem, ladies, much occupied with each other, perhaps, somewhat forgetful of the courtesy which is your due.

There are flowers whose perfume is so exquisite, so almost

divine, that one might believe they had crept forth from the open gate of Eden and so come down to us. But, one there is, possessed of this queenly property, that, while itself giving forth a delightful odor, when mingled with these others, it neither changes nor overpowers, nor obscures their scent, but simply intensifies it and renders it tenfold delicious.

Thus, ladies, it is with your welcome here to-day. To grasp a comrade by the hand once more, to talk over again old times and scenes, to learn of the present, and tell our hopes of the future. These are pleasures which one thing only could heighten—*your* care for us, your kindly ministrations, more than all your sweet presence here; these intensify and render doubly delicious the happiness which our meeting gives us. Therefore once more, in the name of the 2d Heavies, permit me to return to all, citizens, president, orator, ladies—our cordial, and heartfelt thanks.

The Wolcottville band then rendered the "Rip Van Winkle Overture" with telling effect, after which the exercises were brought to a close with cheers for the citizens of Watertown.

About 5 o'clock the bands and a few invited guests were served with refreshments in the Town Hall, and additional evidence was furnished that the ladies of Watertown know only too well how to fulfill all that is required of them. No matter how pleasant the reunions may be which will come hereafter, the members of the Second H. A. will not forget for many years to come the handsome treatment they received in Watertown in the centennial year. The whole number of veterans present, who registered, was 220; also 40 "lost children," *i. e.*, members of other regiments, and ten widows of deceased comrades.

#### NAMES OF VETERANS AND REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS.

Men enlisted from Watertown for three years under the call of the President for five hundred thousand men in 1861;

Corp. Robert B. Atwood, J. Shelton Bronson, George H. Baker, George Castle, Sylvanus M. Clarke, Levi B. Downs, Albert S. Frost, J. J. Fischer, William Gridley, Adolph Hoffmanmeyer, Augustus Lane, H. W. Loomis, Capt. Wm. H. Mallory, Eugene McIntire, Wm. D. Noble, Wm. H. Norris, H. A. Pratt, Corp. Mark O. Patterson, Chester Russell, Wm. W. Scoville, McHenry Stone, Henry G. Scott, Hubert Scott, Lewis J. Welton, Sergt. Frederick H. Welton, Theodore Welton, Bronson Welton.

In 1862: Wm. C. Atwood, John S. Atwood, Joseph Atwood, Charles L. Bryan, Norman W. Barnes, Harvey Bronson, James McCormick, Simon O. Donnell, Jr., Theodore C. Glazier, Samuel

D. Hine, Edward C. Hopson, Albert J. Hotchkiss, Edgar B. Lewis, Matthew Lusk, John A. Ludford, Hiram Mattoon, Timothy Malone, James H. Pritchard, Andrew J. Tuite, William H. Whitelaw, Charles Warner, Thomas Wheeler, Richard Barker, Marcus Dayton, Edward S. Doolittle, Benjamin H. Mallett, Sherman Guernsey, Charles Taylor.

The following men enlisted for three years and received the town bounty of one hundred dollars each:

Nathan B. Abbott, Peter Duffy, Charles E. French, George S. Guilford, William H. Guilford, Heman A. Morris, Merit B. Woodruff.

The following men enlisted for nine months and received the town bounty of one hundred and fifty dollars each:

George W. Andrews, Russell W. Ayres, Charles F. Blackman, Marvin Brouet, John Brouet, John H. Bryan, John J. Beecher, Ezra E. Bassett, George Clark, John N. Ensign, George B. French, Edward S. Fairchild, John FitzPatrick, Edgar Gibson, Henry F. Gibson, Lyman F. Guernsey, David M. Hard, Amos G. Hull, Thomas B. Hotchkiss, Frederick Nichols, Charles Nightingale, William M. Parke, George J. Porter, Julius J. Pope, William Root, Charles W. Scott, Cyrus Thomas, George A. Wright.

Veterans living, 1907: George B. French, Thomas B. Hotchkiss, George A. Wright, Norman W. Barness, Seth B. Bassett, John S. Atwood, Sheldon J. Fox, Fred Cone, Henry S. Hall, Frank Painter, John J. Rogers, Charles Warner, Charles J. Bromberg, Andrew G. Drake, Henry Fitch, Albert S. Frost, David M. Hard, Leroy Upson, George Babin, E. C. Marggraff.

Names of Revolutionary soldiers who enlisted from Westbury:

Thomas Atwell, Timothy Andrews, Clark Baird, Alsop Baldwin, Ensign Theophilus Baldwin, William Bassett, Aner Bradley, Dr. Abel Bronson, Ebenezer Brown, James Brown, Benajah Bryan, David Buckingham, Thomas Cole, Major Augustus Collins, Lieut. Eli Curtiss, Zerah Curtiss, Joseph Cutler, Younglove Cutler, Jonathan Davis, Isaac Dayton, Justus Dayton, Capt. Michael Dayton, Michael Dayton, Jr., Samuel Dayton, Lieut. Thomas Dutton, Lieut. Titus Dutton, Lieut. Nathaniel Edwards, Surgeon John Elton, Lieut. Nathan Ferris, Jeremiah Finch, David Foot, David Foot, Jr., James Fulford, Lieut. John Fulford, Noah Fulford, Titus Fulford, Jonathan Gaylord, Daniel Goodrich, Philo Guernsey, Chauncey Guernsey, Jonathan Guernsey, Capt. Joseph Guernsey, Southmayd

Guernsey, John Hannan, Ambrose Hickox, Lieut. Amos Hickox, Jr., Darius Hickox, Elisha Hickox, Josiah Hickox, Capt. Samuel Hickox, Thomas Hickox, Jr., William Hickox, Jr.

David Hubbard, David Hungerford, James Hungerford, Joel Hungerford, Allyn S. Judd, Balmarine Judd, Brewster Judd, Chandler Judd, Daniel Judd, Demas Judd, confined in Jersey prison ship, Ebenezer Judd, Joel Judd, Martin Kellogg, Capt. Asa Leavenworth, Ashbel Loveland, Amos Matthews, Capt. Stephen Matthews, Amasa Mattoon, Thomas Merchant, Jr., Christopher Merriam, Ensign Isaac Merriam, Charles Merriman, Heman Munson, Lot Osborn, Elisha Parker, John Parker, Benjamin Peck, Capt. Daniel Pendleton, David Punder-son, Nicholas Ransom, Theophilus Ransom, Lieut.-Col. Benjamin Richards, Ebenezer Richards, Abiel Roberts, Jr., Joel Roberts, John Saxton, Gershom Scott, Jr., Stephen Scott, Woolsey Scott, John Sea, Daniel Seymour, Joash Seymour, Capt. Josiah Seymour, Capt. Stephen Seymour, Capt. Zadok Seymour, James Smith, John Smith, Elijah Steele, Capt. Samuel Strickland, Ensign John Stoddard, Wells Stoddard, Solomon Trumbull, "Grig," Mr. Trumbull's negro, William Trumbull, Edward Warren, was at the surrender of Cornwallis. Samuel Welton, Capt. John Woodruff, Samuel Woodruff, Capt. Abel Woodward, John Woodward, George Wooldridge.

Mr. Caleb Hickox left in his will \$3,000.00 towards a soldiers' monument, to be available at the death of Mrs. Hickox. In 1902, the Soldiers' Monument Association was organized and a soliciting committee appointed. \$3,500.00 has been contributed by citizens and friends and a monument to commemorate the memory of the men who gave their lives in their country's cause has been erected on the slope opposite the Methodist Church.





SOLDIERS' MONUMENT.



## Societies and Organizations.

### FREEMASONRY

THE first Masonic Lodge was held December 22, 1790, with the following officers and members present:

Asher Blakeslee, Worshipful Master; Abel Bronson, Senior Warden; Aner Bradley, Junior Warden; Nathan Preston, Secretary; Elisha Warren, Tyler; Brethren present: John Clarke, Chas. Merriman, Elijah Sherman, Samuel Woodward, Amos Matthews, Barnabas Scott.

This meeting was held at Landlord (David) Turner's, where they continued to meet until March 11, 1793, when they removed to the Charles Merriman house (opposite Taft's School), now occupied by Miss Mary Merriman. Brother Merriman was "to find the Lodge with house room, wood, candles, etc. for the term of one year, and to have for his reward twelve dollars and find the Lodge with Liquor at Prime cost in New York, allowing freight and transportation." The first election of officers was held January 10th, 1791, when they met to celebrate the Feast of St. John the Evangelist.

Asher Blakeslee, W. M.; Abel Bronson, S. W.; Aner Bradley, J. W.; Samuel Southmayd, Sec.; Chas. Merriman, Treas.; Amos Matthews, S. D.; Elisha Warren, J. D.

Brother Ethel Porter was the first member to be buried with Masonic honors. He died March 1, 1797, in the thirty-second year of his age.

Honored, unchang'd, a firm yet cautious mind  
Since tho' prudent, constant yet resigned,  
Fill'd with the sense of age, the fire of youth,  
Such this man was, who now from earth removed.

The Lodge ordered five hundred copies of the funeral sermon preached by the Rev. Chauncey Prindle on this occasion.

August 8th, 1796, Brothers Chauncey Prindle and Aner Bradley were appointed a committee to wait on Rev. Uriel Gridley and offer to present him with a suitable white marble tombstone in memory of his late worthy Lady Dorcas.

January 6th, 1800, Brothers William J. Punderford and Chauncey Prindle were appointed a committee to make arrangements to commemorate the death of Brother George Washington.

December 30th, 1806, Doctor Abel Bronson presented the Lodge with twenty dollars, the interest of which was to be used to purchase a glass of remembrance.

The present officers of Federal Lodge, No. 17 F. & A. M., are:

Ira C. Hotchkiss, W. M.; Thos. F. Magee, S. W.; S. McL. Buckingham, J. W.; Jas. T. McCleery, Sec.; Geo. F. Pritchard, Treas.; Robert V. Magee, S. D.; Chas. B. Buckingham, J. D. Rev. H. N. Cunningham, Chaplain.

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### FORESTERS

The origin of the Society of Foresters dates to the time of Robin Hood and his band of merry men in Sherwood Forest, England. It developed into assemblies called courts, governed by a supreme body called High Court, and became a benefit association. In 1890 the American Courts seceded from the English and became the Foresters of America and now are governed by their own Supreme Court, using for their emblem the national colors.

Court Merritt Heminway, No. 48, was organized in Watertown, April 17, 1890, with 22 charter members. Officers:

Chief Ranger, J. D. McGowan; Sub Chief Ranger, Thos. Higgins; Treasurer, E. P. McGowan; Financial Secretary, John Dougherty; Recording Secretary, Frank Welch.

Members: Albert M. Bassett, Joseph Colgan, John Dough-

erty, Edward Lyons, Silas Marshall, Edward P. McGowan, Michael R. Sepples, James Brophil, Thos. Colgan, Thos. Higgins, John Minnehan, John D. McGowan, Thos. McCarthy, Frank Welch, Ernest Zeidler, James Colgan, Roderick N. Deland, John Holoran, Patrick Minnehan, Thos. F. McGowan, Henry St. George, Samuel O. Oxley.

The present membership is 117, and present officers:

Chief Ranger, Oscar Jorlot; Sub Chief Ranger, Edward Canfield; Treasurer, Michael McFaddon; Financial Secretary, Edward P. McGowan; Recording Secretary, James Hanning; Senior, Samuel Moulthrop; Junior, William Downes; Senior Beadle, Thos. Dumphy; Junior Beadle, George McNulty; Deputy Grand Chief Ranger, James Hanning; Junior Past Chief Ranger, John Purdy; Lecturer, Thos. Shields; Trustees, D. G. Sullivan, Patrick Walker, Patrick McGough; Court Physicians, Dr. E. K. Loveland and Dr. James Martin.

A weekly benefit of five dollars is paid to all sick members in good standing; doctors' bills are paid and medicines furnished. \$100 is paid toward funeral expenses of a member and \$50 at the death of the wife of a member. In seventeen years Court Merritt Heminway has paid \$1,000 sick benefits and \$700 funeral expenses. It is now one of the most prosperous Courts in the State and has a large surplus in the bank.

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### KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS

Columbia Lodge, No. 12, Knights of Pythias, was instituted March 26, 1891, with twenty-seven charter members. The first officers were:

Frank J. Painter, Past Chancellor; George Hudson, Chancellor Commander; Robert V. Magee, Vice Chancellor; George Treuren, Prelate; John J. Gailey, Keeper of Records and Seal; Wm. J. White, Master of Finance; Robert J. Moore, Master of Exchequer; Harry H. Heminway, Master at Arms; Edgar L. Brouette, Inner Guard; Wm. Warrington, Outer Guard.

Present officers are:

David Davies, Chancellor Commander; George A. Ryder, Vice Chancellor; Linus F. Mattoon, Prelate; Jessy G. Hudson,

Master of Work; Thomas F. Magee, Master of Finance; Bertram P. Hudson, Master of Exchequer; Jason C. Hart, Master at Arms; Wm. W. Jerman, Inner Guard; George Robinson, Outer Guard.

The Lodge now numbers 101 members.

The total receipts since the Lodge was instituted have been \$12,071.08. \$6,157.50 was expended for sick and funeral benefits and at present about \$1,000 are available.

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## FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Watertown Fire Department was organized May 8, 1894. The number of members at that time was about fifty. The first officers were:

Wm. H. Beers, Chief Engineer; E.W. Wheeler, Assistant Engineer; John J. Gailey, Secretary; James B. Woolson, Treasurer. The Department is divided into two companies called Hook and Ladder, No. 1, and Chemical Engine Co., No. 1.

The first company officers were:

Hook and Ladder No. 1.—George Hudson, Foreman; George W. Barton, 1st Assistant; Thomas D. Higgins, 2d Assistant. Chemical Engine Company No. 1.—Henry H. Bartlett, Foreman; Robert V. Magee, 1st Assistant; Henry St. George, 2d Assistant.

The apparatus consists of one hook and ladder truck, one chemical engine, two hose carts and fifteen hundred feet of hose. The present Department officers are:

Chief Engineer, S. McLean Buckingham; Assistant Engineer, Thomas L. Shields; Secretary, Thomas F. Magee; Treasurer, Joseph Suffa.

The present Company officers are:

Hook and Ladder No. 1.—Ralph B. Bronson, Foreman; M. Hanning, 1st Assistant; H. Bronson, 2d Assistant. Chemical Engine Company (now known as Hose Company No. 1).—Foreman, Charles E. Gibson; 1st Assistant, Edward P. McGowan; 2d Assistant, Charles B. Buckingham.

The membership is limited to sixty men and we have about twenty associate members.

## SEXTA FEIRA.

A Literary Society of fifteen or twenty ladies was organized in the fall of 1886, composed of a few from each denomination, meeting weekly, reading, taking their sewing, and having light refreshments. In 1897, they adopted a constitution with limited membership of thirty-five with a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. Article first reading: "This Society shall be called Sexta Feira." Article second: "The object of this Society is to stimulate literary taste and furnish social entertainment."

Sixty-nine names have been enrolled during the twenty-one years. Thirty-five upon the "roll call" to-day. Eight have been removed by death.

A number of gifts have been presented to the Public School, and to the Library. A bronze tablet to the memory of John Trumbull, the author and poet, lawyer and judge of Connecticut Supreme Court, born in Watertown, April 24th, 1750. The Society is in a flourishing condition, having just celebrated its twenty-first birthday, with eleven present who were at its organization ten years ago.

They have for their study this coming season: Latin, America, with Mexico, West Indies and South America, in particular for their historical, physical, political and natural resources and research. The officers are: Mrs. Buel Heminway, President; Mrs. B. C. Atwood, Vice-President; Mrs. F. W. Gray, Secretary and Treasurer.

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## DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

The Sarah Whitman Trumbull Chapter, D. A. R., was organized October 24, 1904. State Regent, Mrs. Sara T. Kinney, met the twenty charter members at "Campsie," the home of Mrs. John A. Buckingham, and appointed Mrs. John A. Buckingham first Regent. At a meeting following Mrs. Buckingham appointed Vice Regent, Mrs. Merritt Heminway; Corresponding

Secretary, Miss Cornelia Hotchkiss; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Francis B. Noble; Treasurer, Mrs. John H. Taylor; Historian, Mrs. Charles B. Mattoon; Registrar, Mrs. Robert T. Lewis.

The membership has increased to thirty. The Chapter has erected a drinking fountain to mark the site of the John Trumbull house with the inscription: "Erected by the Sarah Whitman Trumbull Chapter, D. A. R., to mark the site of the John Trumbull house, 140 ft. Northeast."

It has also placed a brass tablet on the tree from which the American flag was first unfurled at the close of the war of 1812.

Historic spots are few in Watertown but the Chapter can and will do other work that will leave its impress upon the future.

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#### VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

The Village Improvement Society was organized January 10, 1905, Mr. Horace D. Taft, President; Mrs. Merritt Heminway, Vice-President; Mrs. Alfred Stephens, Secretary; Charles B. Mattoon, Treasurer.

The purpose of the Society is to beautify and improve the appearance of the village, to assist in making sidewalks, in grading, and in making any public improvement that will benefit the town or its residents, and to try to stimulate a spirit of progressiveness in our people. The Society has received the encouragement of the public and looks for a generous support in coming years.





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